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Saipan Tribune

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CW, E2C, asylum exemption bill up for US Senate vote. PAGE 2
Magnitude 7.6 quake, waves strike Solomon Islands. PAGE 13

Dynasty scores commission's restrictions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Commission says they are only following law
» Mega Stars: We have not picked up Saipan casino application packet, yet

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's owner, Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., said yesterday they are hoping Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission would be more reasonable with their restrictions on casino equipment purchases and hiring that is now hampering casino operations, with some approvals pending since October 2013. Commission chairman Matthew Masga, in response, said they are only properly enforcing the provisions of the Tinian Gaming Act even as the U.S. government is "scrutinizing" the Tinian casino industry.

See DYNASTY on Page 4

Taxi driver heard Romero, man shouting at each other

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Driver's testimony corroborates victim's boyfriend's testimony

A cab driver testified Friday in Superior Court that he overheard on his cell phone Emerita Romero and a man shouting at each other aboard a car that Romero apparently mistook as a taxicab in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012.

Sae Bong Kim's testimony corroborated Romero's boyfriend Taj Van Buuren's statements that the victim texted him earlier that she was on her way to Van Buuren's house in Chalan Piao that same day.

Kim, speaking through a Korean interpreter, said that Romero and Van Buuren were regular customers of his taxi. He said he would usually drop Romero at least once a day to her regular routes—Godfather's Bar in Garapan, her house in Garapan, and Van Buuren's house in a building where Subway is located in Chalan Piao.

See TAXI on Page 4

JAYSON CAMACHO

The sixteen candidates of this year's Miss Marianas Teen are officially presented to the public on Saturday at the Naked Fish Bar and Cafe. From right to left, front row, Maria Dizon, Nemerlyn Magat, Marcelyn Castro, Aiko Enungel, Chelsea Fama, Sheena Serrano, Renita Fleming, Gianna Camacho. From left to right, back row, Allysha Lloren, Tiana Reyes, Emmalou Cabrera, Lynette Vasquez, Savannah Delos Santos, Aurora David, Jacklyn Garote, and Michelle Faller.

16 vie for 2014 Miss Marianas Teen Pageant

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The 16 beauties who will compete in this year's Miss Marianas Teen Pageant were officially presented to the public on Saturday at the Naked Fish Bar and Cafe in Susupe.

Organized by Stellar Marianas, the teen pageant candidates will be taking their first steps to becoming the 2014 Miss Marianas Teen in July.

The candidates are Maria Theresa Dizon, Nemerlyn Magat, Marcelyn Castro, Aiko Enungel, Sheena Serrano, Chelsea Fama, Renita Fleming, Allysha Lloren, Gianna Camacho, Tiana Reyes, Emmalou Cabrera, Lynette Vasquez, Savannah Delos Santos, Aurora David, Jacklyn Garote, and Michelle Faller.

These contestants will receive a Stellar Marianas beauty bag, hair and makeup training sessions, nutrition and fitness training, model portfolio, media interview and public speaking training sessions opening number outfit and fitness wear from Stellar Marianas.

This year, the contestants will compete in a "Fun Fashion" competition, where they will design their own outfits, talent night competition, and fitness wear competition.

The winner will win a crown, trophy, sash and flowers, $1,000 in cash, all-expense-paid travel opportunity to compete at Miss Teen International, all-expense-paid travel opportunities, a brand new smartphone, one-year supply of beauty products, one-year gym membership and personal trainer, one-year use of a personal stylist and manicurist, a professional model portfolio, four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas, and opportunity to create and implement a community project under their name as-

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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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261 DAYS
BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

POLL RESULTS
Should the government issue homestead permits on Pagan?

Yes	87
No	84
Undecided	5
No opinion	7

Sunday, April 13, 2014

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ASIA

The sea has gone quiet and the search for the missing Malaysian plane will likely take long.

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WORLD

Men in the uniforms occupy police headquarters in Donetsk.

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LIFE & STYLE

Conan O'Brien says he will strip down as host of the MTV Movie Awards.

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Local

CW, E2C, asylum exemption bill up for US Senate vote

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An omnibus territories bill is now on its way to a U.S. Senate floor vote that could extend the CNMI's transitional CW and E2C investor programs by five years after Dec. 31, 2014, as well as stretches the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications beyond Jan. 1, 2015. Even if U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez uses his administrative authority to extend the CW program for foreign workers, the E2C investor visa program and the asylum application exemptions would still come to an end in eight months unless legislation extending those is passed and signed into law.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's filing last week of a report on S. 1237 or the Omnibus Territories Act cleared the way for a vote on the Senate floor.

If and when the U.S. Senate passes S. 1237, it still has to go through full U.S. House of Representatives for a vote before heading to President Barack Obama.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, for his part, said it would be "ideal" if the asylum application exemption is made "permanent" or at least while the CNMI still relies heavily on tourists from China and Russia without a U.S. visa.

Both the delegate and the governor are wary that when the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications is not extended beyond Jan. 1, 2015, it could "open the floodgates" for tourists claiming asylum once they are admitted to the islands under a visa waiver program.

The Chinese government in particular could also start restricting its citizens from traveling to the CNMI as tourists once the U.S. territory accepts asylum applications.

Persons applying for asylum or protection with the U.S. could claim political or religious persecution in their own country.

"Anybody who comes to the CNMI as a tourist and once they land, they [could] say they want to apply for asylum. It's a situation like it was years ago. Once it [exemption] expires on Jan. 1, we can't say no [to asylum applicants]. Imagine the number of folks who want to do that. It's just unthinkable. In the end, we'd be inundated with just asylum seekers here, it's not going to be good," Inos said, responding to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

When asked how long he would like the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applications, Inos said it's a "tough" question to answer.

"Ideally if we make it permanent. But this issue about asylum, it's a real hot partisan issue back in [Washington, D.C.]. Some people say let them come in and apply; there are others who say don't. To say for how long, in my view, as long as we rely on tourist traffic from China [and Russia] then we should be very careful because once this thing opens up, there goes our tourism market," Inos said.

'Boat people' situation

Inos cited a situation in 1999 when the federal government brought more than 600 illegal Chinese to temporary shelters on Tinian after the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted their boats near Guam.

The governor said there was a belief that the so-called "boat people" were diverted to Tinian because the CNMI does not allow asylum applications unlike Guam, although the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service at the time said they were not denying asylum to the intercepted aliens.

"Remember the situation couple of years ago when boat people were headed to Guam and there was this fear that if they went to Guam, once they apply [for asylum], they've got to take them. That's why they diverted the ship up here because up here we can deny. So we need to address that," Inos said in an interview on Friday's signing of the National Library Week proclamation on Friday.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 isolated the CNMI from the rest of the United States with respect to applications for asylum. That's the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

The law states, "Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or require any person described in section 208(e) to be permitted to apply for asylum under section 208 at any time before" Jan. 1, 2015.

Omnibus concerns

Sablan, in an interview at his office, said extending the CW and E2C programs as well as extending the CNMI's exemption from receiving asylum applicants are "time sensitive so we're working on different ways to get this thing."

Besides S. 1237, there was also an accompanying U.S. House bill, H.R. 2200, that addresses the same issues.

Just recently, Sablan also introduced a standalone bill, H.R. 4296, also to extend the transition period by five years or up to 2019.

Sablan said he is working to get a hearing on this bill this month. The bill has been referred to the U.S. House Committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary.

He reiterated that the U.S. Labor secretary assured him that he won't wait for the 11th hour before deciding whether to grant the CNMI's request to extend the CW program.

S. 1237, according to Sablan, not only allows for a gradual phase-out of the CW program and E2C investor status, but also allows military contractors to use H visa workers for build-up construction, if necessary.

The CNMI still does not have enough numbers of qualified U.S. workers to fill all the estimated 10,000 jobs held currently by skilled and professional foreign workers, mostly from the Philippines and other Asian countries.

But while the CNMI government and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other business groups support extending the CW program, there are others that are pushing for another way to stabilize the CNMI's workforce.

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal said instead of "five more years of uncertainty and disenfranchisement for the most deserving and loyal immigrants on U.S. soil," the "more logical, humane and just move would be to amend the CNRA to provide an immediate obstacle-free pathway to citizenship to all of the CNMI's 12,000 or less legal, long-term nonresident workers."

"Any guest worker program that lacks a pathway to citizenship is a program that reduces the workers to labor units. That is exactly what the CNMI-Only Guest Worker Program does. It sucks the humanity from those who fill 90 percent of the private sector jobs in the CNMI. But this is political chess, not ethical chess. The Labor secretary hears from fellow bureaucrats and politicians, and not the nonresidents who have built the CNMI and keep its economy advancing. He has not even visited the CNMI. It is unlikely that he would do the right thing. Hopefully, he will renew the program for a year at the most," Doromal said.

E2C investors

Some E2C investors, meanwhile, have been demanding for improved immigration status so they won't be forced to depart the CNMI after 2014. They are those who were allowed to remain in the CNMI under E2C status even with a minimum investment of $50,000 instead of $150,000, but that would only be allowed until the end of this year.

After 2014, these investors will be required to obtain another U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classification.

Sablan said the most recent information they have from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is that there were 261 E2 or E2C investors as of Jan. 6, 2014.

Your Child at 3 Years

Child's Name | Child's Age | Today's Date

How your child plays, learns, speaks, and acts offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

Check the milestones your child has reached by his or her 3rd birthday. Take this with you and talk with your child's doctor at every visit about the milestones your child has reached and what to expect next.

What Most Babies Do at this Age:

Social/Emotional
- ❑ Copies adults and friends
- ❑ Shows affection for friends without prompting
- ❑ Takes turns in games
- ❑ Shows concern for a crying friend
- ❑ Understands the idea of "mine" and "his" or "hers"
- ❑ Shows a wide range of emotions
- ❑ Separates easily from mom and dad
- ❑ May get upset with major changes in routine
- ❑ Dresses and undresses self

Language/Communication
- ❑ Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps
- ❑ Can name most familiar things
- ❑ Understands words like "in," "on," and "under"
- ❑ Says first name, age, and sex
- ❑ Names a friend
- ❑ Says words like "I," "me," "we," and "you" and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)
- ❑ Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time
- ❑ Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)
- ❑ Can work toys with buttons, levers, and moving parts
- ❑ Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people
- ❑ Does puzzles with 3 or 4 pieces
- ❑ Understands what "two" means
- ❑ Copies a circle with pencil or crayon
- ❑ Turns book pages one at a time
- ❑ Builds towers of more than 6 blocks
- ❑ Screws and unscrews jar lids or turns door handle

Movement/Physical Development
- ❑ Climbs well
- ❑ Runs easily
- ❑ Pedals a tricycle (3-wheel bike)
- ❑ Walks up and down stairs, one foot on each step

Act Early by Talking to Your Child's Doctor if Your Child:
- ❑ Falls down a lot or has trouble with stairs
- ❑ Drools or has very unclear speech
- ❑ Can't work simple toys (such as peg boards, simple puzzles, turning handle)
- ❑ Doesn't speak in sentences
- ❑ Doesn't understand simple instructions
- ❑ Doesn't play pretend or make-believe
- ❑ Doesn't want to play with other children or with toys
- ❑ Doesn't make eye contact
- ❑ Loses skills he once had

Tell your child's doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age, and talk with someone in your community who is familiar with services for young children in your area, such as your local public school. For more information, go to **www.cdc.gov/concerned** or call **1-800-CDC-INFO.**

Adapted from CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, edited by Steven Shelov and Tanya Remer Altmann © 1991, 1993, 1998, 2004, 2009 by the American Academy of Pediatrics and BRIGHT FUTURES: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SUPERVISION OF INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS, Third Edition, edited by Joseph Hagan, Jr., Judith S. Shaw, and Paula M. Duncan, 2008, Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics. This milestone checklist is not a substitute for a standardized, validated developmental screening tool.

HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?

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Printing funded by the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant.

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Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Man who allegedly made death threat inks plea deal

A suspected meth or "ice" distributor who allegedly threatened to kill a law enforcement's confidential source has signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday that Daniel A. Castro entered a plea deal with the U.S. government. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona held a change of plea hearing for Castro on Friday at 9am.

Manglona recently deemed "serious" the death threat that Castro made to a law enforcement's confidential source during a purported drug transaction. The meaning of Castro's words themselves is clear, said Manglona, referring to the threat the defendant made to the confidential source.

Manglona issued the determination in an order that affirmed U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy's decision to detain Castro pending trial.

The judge said defense counsel Timothy Bellas argued that the context—the three persons in the videotape are laughing—takes the edge off the threat.

Manglona, however, noted that the context includes the tone of Castro's voice and the look on his face, and those convey a threat.

Castro was one of seven persons arrested in February for alleged distribution of "ice."

The indictment charged Castro with four counts of distribution of methamphetamine. He pleaded not guilty of all charges.

At a hearing on Feb. 26, Kennedy ordered that Castro be kept detained pending his trial after finding that no conditions would reasonably assure the safety of the community.

On March 10, Castro, through Bellas, asked the court to review Kennedy's detention order and release him on conditions, including electronic monitoring and the posting of a real property bond.

Bellas offered new evidence—the audio and video recording of the purported Nov. 6 drug transaction, disclosed by the U.S. government after the detention hearing—which he believed showed that the alleged threat to the confidential source was not credible.

In his declaration, Bellas said it is apparent that the persons depicted in the video are well known to each other and that the "threat" was made in a joking context or atmosphere.

Badawy disagreed and submitted a sealed copy of the recording and a transcript of the conversation translated from Chamorro to English.

Badawy said that during the Nov. 6 controlled buy-in during which Castro sold to the confidential source a quantity of "ice," Castro threatened to kill the confidential source if he found out he was working with the "FBI."

Badawy said the threat, made in Chamorro, was captured by an audio/video recording device worn by the confidential source.

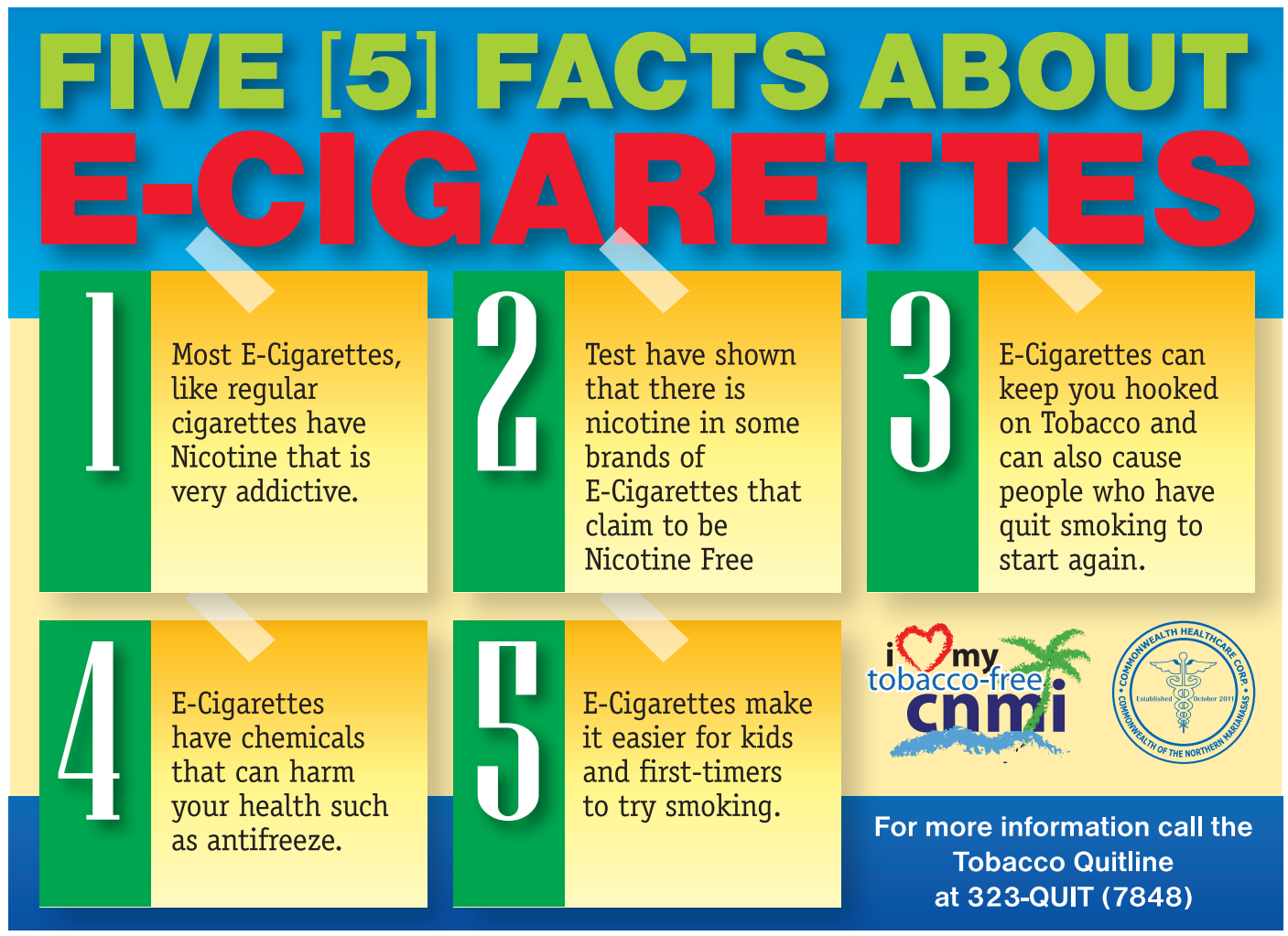
The government lawyer said the confidential source informed the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force of the threat shortly after it happened and that the confidential source felt the threat was serious and that he/she was frightened. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GPPC to pay $115K in back wages

GPPC Inc. has agreed to pay $115,619 in minimum wage and overtime back wages to 209 workers on Saipan after the Wage and Hour Division found the Northern Mariana Islands-based general construction company in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

GPPC failed to pay at least a minimum wage of $5.55 per hour and proper overtime premium from Feb. 18, 2012, through Oct. 17, 2013. Workers were deducted 30 minutes from their scheduled shift without actually taking a continuous break for that time. The company mistakenly believed that a small rest period of 15 minutes in the morning and in the afternoon could be deducted from an employee's daily hours of work. A balance of $4,432 remains unpaid to 13 unallocated workers.

Workers who have not been paid can call (670) 233-0740 for information on how to receive their back wage payment, even if they have already returned to their country of origin. ***(U.S. Labor)***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TAXI

From Page 1

Kim said he was driving a white Honda when Romero called him to pick her up from her house in Garapan between 2am and 3am on Feb. 5, 2012.

Shown by interim chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty an aerial photo of the Garapan area, Kim pointed at the exact place of Romero's house and stated that it's next to a computer store.

Romero's house is located next to Softland Computer, which is located along the corner of Chichirica Avenue and Dama Di Noche Street.

Kim said that when he arrived at the house, Romero was not there so he called her. He said at first she did not reply, but later he managed to talk to her on the phone.

Kim said he asked Romero what happened because he was at her house to pick her up, but she was not there. Romero stated that she's already in another car.

Kim said that Romero then called him, realizing that the car she was on was not a taxi. Kim said Romero asked him what the phone number of the taxi was to confirm so he told her. She replied okay and then hung up.

During their next conversation on the phone, Kim said that Romero sounded like something had happened and asked him to pick her up in the Puerto Rico area. Kim said that Romero was not able to say much and that she appeared to be surprised or in shock.

The driver said he overheard a man's voice on the phone. He said Romero and the man were shouting at each other and then the phone got disconnected.

Kim said at that time he got a second customer that he needed to drop off. Kim said he asked his co-driver to call Romero back, but apparently she did not answer.

The driver said he later proceeded to Van Buuren's place in Chalan Piao to check if Romero was there because she earlier told him to drop her there.

Kim said he met Van Buuren and told him that something was happening and that he should contact Romero. He said he stayed for 20 minutes with Van Buuren because he too was worried. Kim said Van Buren kept calling Romero, but there was no response.

Kim said he found out that Romero had been murdered after a few days. He said he told police and Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park about what happened.

Kim said he believed that when he talked with Romero, the latter was in a moving car.

Gilbert Gatmaitan, Romero's first cousin, testified that on Feb. 4, 2012, between 7pm to 8pm he dropped Romero off at Godfather's Bar, where she works. Gatmaitan said he dropped Romero with his car because her brother was not available at that time. He said at the time he was staying in the same Garapan house where Romero and her brother lived.

Melody Marabe, a cook and co-worker of Romero, testified that she and Romero, together with two other co-workers, boarded a cab on their way to their respective houses on Feb. 5, 2012, at 2:45am.

Marabe said the first one who was dropped off was Natalie Ocon-Thomas, followed by Romero, she, and Jolens Escamilla.

When shown Romero's photo, Marabe recognized the picture as Romero holding her Blackberry cellphone during their Christmas party on Dec. 18, 2011. Marabe said it was the same phone the victim was using on Feb. 5, 2012, during their ride home.

She said it was Romero who called the taxicab.

Marabe said she stays at a place near Romero's house, while Escamilla was the last one who was dropped off in San Antonio.

She said Ocon-Thomas later called her that she believed Romero got on a car with someone like a Bangladeshi.

Ocon-Thomas, a cook, said she was already home when she noticed that her plastic bag of bananas had gotten interchanged with Romero's plastic bag of bananas. Ocon-Thomas said she called Romero so she could get her bananas.

She said Romero told her she was already sleepy and was already wearing house clothes. Romero advised her to just get the bananas the following day.

Ocon-Thomas said she insisted because she was hungry. She said she and Romero later met near Garapan Street Market where they exchanged bags of bananas.

Ocon-Thomas said she saw Romero walking toward her as a car coming from the direction of Wild Bill's came and parked on the grassy shoulder of the road near St. Michael's Ambulance.

The cook said that Romero signaled the car with her hand and stated "wait, wait" as she walked to her and they exchanged bags of bananas.

Ocon-Thomas said she saw Romero enter the passenger side of the car and overheard a man ask Romero, "What's that?"

Ocon-Thomas said the car, with blue or green color, backed up fast and traveled toward the the Mobil gas station on Middle Road.

"I did not see the driver," she said.

Ocon-Thomas said when they exchanged bags, she jokingly asked Romero who was with her and maybe she has a "booking"—which means a date.

She said Romero replied it's just her Bangladeshi neighbor.

Ocon-Thomas said that at the time, she was not aware that Romero had a boyfriend. She said she knew that Romero had a husband and two daughters in the Philippines.

Shown a bag that was found at La Fiesta Mall, Ocon-Thomas said it was her Christmas gift to Romero.

She said Romero was wearing black short pants and spaghetti type shirt and sandals when she last saw her getting on a car.

When asked by Janet H. King, counsel for Crisostomo, that in her testimonies given to four people, including then Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, Ocon-Thomas had stated that the driver of the car had an American-sounding voice. Ocon-Thomas said in her mind what she meant was English language. She explained that her first language is Visayan-Tagalog.

She said the drivers of the taxis they usually ride don't ask, "What's that?"

Scott Dottino, co-owner of two Godfather's Bar, also took the witness stand. He said Romero was a consistent and a reliable employee, that she was an outstanding employee and was never late and never missed work.

Dottino said he called Romero on the phone at 5:10pm on Feb. 5, 2012, but she did not answer.

Dottino said he called his business partner Ron Biggers and other staff. He said he learned from the family that Romero was not at their house.

He said he later called Police Officer Jason Tarkong to ask what they should do. Tarkong told him to file a missing person report with DPS. Dottino said he also asked attorney Mark Hanson for a telephone number of the FBI.

Shown a photo of Romero, Dottino said it was taken during their Christmas party in 2011 and that they kept the photo in the bar in her memory.

He said he was not aware at that time that Van Buuren was Romero's boyfriend.

Leticia Aquino, accounting manager at Islander Rental Car, testified that Annie Crisostomo rented the Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-246 on Feb. 3, 2012, and changed it on Feb. 5, 2012, at 12:30pm. Annie Crisostomo is the sister of defendant Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is on trial for the kidnapping and murder of Romero.

Aquino said there was no available car at the time so they gave Annie Crisostomo a Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-236. She said Annie Crisostomo did not specify any reason for changing the car.

On direct examination by assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy, Aquino said the changed car was almost the same color and same model as the first car.

Aquino said Annie Crisostomo returned the exchanged car on Feb. 8, 2012.

She said the color of the Toyota Corolla ACG-246 is a combination of blue and green and the register's color is turquoise.

King said five cars went out at the same time that Toyota Corolla ACG-246 was out on the road on Saipan. Aquino agreed.

David Colcol, car washer/maintenance at Islander Rent A Car, said when the Toyota Corolla ACG-246 was returned on Feb. 5, 2012, its floor mat on the passenger side was missing. Colcol said the car had no mechanical issue when it was returned. He said he informed the car agent about the missing floor mat.

Editha Vargas, who used to work as an administrative assistant at Islander Rent A Car, testified she's the one who entertained Annie Crisostomo when she rented the car and changed it later. Vargas said Annie Crisostomo returned the car in good condition on Feb. 5, 2012, at 12:30pm.

She said Annie Crisostomo requested for a tinted car, but at the time the one available was only the Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-236.

Vargas said she asked why she had to change it, and Annie Crisostomo did not specify any reason.

The trial of Joseph Crisostomo will continue today, Monday, at 8:30am.

PAGEANT

From Page 1

sisted by Stellar Marianas.

"The contestants will be doing a lot of activities. Recently, they assisted the carnival at the American Red Cross walkathon. They will be doing other activities for Flame Tree Festival, Taste of the Marianas, and PIC 5K Run," community event director Shirley Sablan said.

Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer noted that the contestant will be in other events as well as community outreaches.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

At the same time, Mega Stars chief executive officer Cario Hon confirmed that as of yesterday afternoon, they have not picked up an application packet for a Saipan casino license—at least not yet.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos reiterated Friday that the individuals that have so far picked up the application forms are agents or representatives of investors. The deadline to turn in an application coupled with a nonrefundable $1 million fee is on April 21, only a week from today.

Mega Stars said since the Tinian casino commission's "restructuring" and the "appointment of an executive director," the cooperative relationship between Dynasty and the commission "dissipated quickly."

Tinian casino commissioners are paid an annual salary of $75,000 each.

Mega Stars' Hon and Tinian Dynasty general manager Tom Liu said the commission is now requesting Dynasty's longtime vendors and suppliers to "undergo the process of licensing of casino service industries," which they said was not previously required.

The process takes months to complete, delaying Dynasty's purchase of new and replacement equipment and supplies.

Hon and Liu said Dynasty has been ordering and receiving service from their suppliers for over 10 years "without any issues or inappropriate dealings."

"These suppliers have business interests in major gaming jurisdictions all over the world. As part of TDHCs business compliance, our processes include receiving multiple quotes before selecting the best supplier that is known and reputable in the gaming industry," Hon said.

Mega Stars and Dynasty cited at least four Dynasty suppliers and vendors that have been operating in the United States, Macau, Australia, Cambodia, Vietnam, South Pacific, Singapore, and Europe for more than 15 years each.

Silver Heritage, for example, supplies Dynasty with electronic gaming machines. Liu said while Silver Heritage received transitional approval, they are "reluctant to deliver 61 new machines to the property."

Matsui, Dynasty's supplier of gaming chips and plaques since 2003, has also been waiting for approval since early March.

USPC, which supplies Dynasty with playing cards and electronic shoes, has also been waiting for approval since February. Liu said USPC is also being asked to complete a multi-jurisdictional application that is normally used for key employees.

International Casino Services, which has been Dynasty's supplier of cage and table games management systems since 1998, has also been waiting for approval since October 2013.

Hiring restrictions

Hon and Liu said the requirement of a casino key license for all staff was previously not an issue.

"Again, since the [commission] structure, this process has been slowed down by TCGCC. Since applications were submitted in January 2014, we have in excess of 35 staff that has paid $500, awaiting their casino key licenses and new badges since promotions. Is it because TCGCC is lacking the equipment required to produce these badges?" Hon asked.

An example of the commission's restrictive hiring requirements, Hon and Liu cited Dynasty's recent employment of former Casino Commission chair Martin San Nicolas and Bill Cing.

Since early March, Dynasty had tried to hire San Nicolas as compliance manager and Cing as director of human resources.

"They want a background check and an investigation into these individuals who were not only former Casino Commission chairmen but also Tinian residents whom they have known for a long time. This kind of background check was not done before," said Liu in an interview at LauLau Bay Golf Resort yesterday afternoon, along with Mega Stars' Hon.

He said other U.S. citizen applicants are also subjected to this "long drawn out procedure before being allowed to earn a paycheck."

Dynasty and Mega Stars said Casino Commission commissioners are paid some $75,000 annually and meet every two weeks to review and decide on any outstanding requests or approvals.

"The TCGCC has met on several occasions and has still not permitted the ex-chairmen to commence their employment and ultimately being denied the right to earn a living," Liu said.

Casino Commission chair Matthew Masga, in a phone interview, said the commission is doing its own due diligence in making sure the provisions of the Tinian Gaming Act are complied with.

He said the background checks, suitability, and other investigations are required under the law.

"We cannot rush anything. We have to comply with the law and we have to be careful. With all the things that have happened, and the feds scrutinizing not only Dynasty but also the commission, we need to take all matters seriously. The casino needs to be run like a banking institution," Masga told *Saipan Tribune*.

Masga added that the Casino Commission hired a Las Vegas-based firm to do some background checks. He referred this reporter to Casino Commission executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita for further information. The commission is expected to fully respond to Dynasty and Mega Stars' concerns soon.

Hon and Liu said Dynasty operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year, "contributing to the Tinian economy," so requests or approvals required urgently cannot be achieved by the commission.

"As a casino, we often service customers that have particular cultural beliefs that require movement of tables or manning of tables, to remain competitive in the Asian marketplace. The need for the TCGCC to work with TDHC and not against it is paramount for us to succeed and for the Tinian economy to succeed," they said.

They added that Dynasty has the right to employ the right people for the positions required to operate in an efficient and professional manner.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Guerrero announces re-election bid for education board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said Friday that he will seek another term in office in the upcoming November election. Two seats on the education board are up for grabs.

Guerrero, whose four-year-term is expiring this year, is a voting member of the education board. He was first elected to the position in 2001, where he was also chosen as its chairman.

Guerrero

If re-elected, this will mark Guerrero's fourth term in office. The two BOE seats up for grabs in this coming general election includes one for Saipan and another one for Tinian. Incumbent member Lucy Blanco-Maratita, however, has yet to announce plans whether or not she will seek another term.

As the longest serving board member, Guerrero said he wants to do more for the islands' public school children.

His greatest motivation to seek re-election, he said, is his only son, who currently a student at Saipan Southern High School.

"It's a commitment that I told myself that as long as my son is in PSS, I want to show my full support to our education system," he said Friday during a break at a board meeting.

Since joining the board 13 years ago, Guerrero cited significant changes and progress achieved by the Public School System. He said he'd seen the remarkable turnaround of the system's quality of instruction and services.

Among the specifics is the implementation of the common core standards, the accreditation works, the technology expansion, extensive professional development, the certification of staff, evaluation tools for all system personnel—all contributing to the success of public school students throughout the years.

"I am very proud of where PSS has been and where it is now. And as a board, I do believe that we've done an excellent job for our students. One of the reasons I am seeking re-election is also to see a continuity of the commissioner's initiatives," said Guerrero, describing Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan as a "very passionate and focused" leader for the school system.

According to Guerrero, one of the huge successes noted at PSS is the offering of alternative education and the Lina'la Malawasch Academy—programs that cater to at-risk youths and students to ensure that they complete high school.

Guerrero said he fought for years to make it happen for students. He described these programs as "safety nets" for those who are struggling to finish high school on time.

"For me, students in these programs are the real models because they made the choice to complete their high school despite being challenged," he said.

If he will be given a new mandate, Guerrero vows that he will continue that effort to bring more success to the system. For the chairman, technology now plays pivotal role in children's education.

He also emphasized the need for PSS to "think outside the box" to fulfill the high level of accountability and transparency expected of the system.

When asked about his edge over any potential opponent to the post, Guerrero said: "I still have the strong passion for education and I believe that every child regardless of who they are, they deserve a quality education. I am willing to stand up for education…and I think I have proven myself when our people gave me their confidence all these years."

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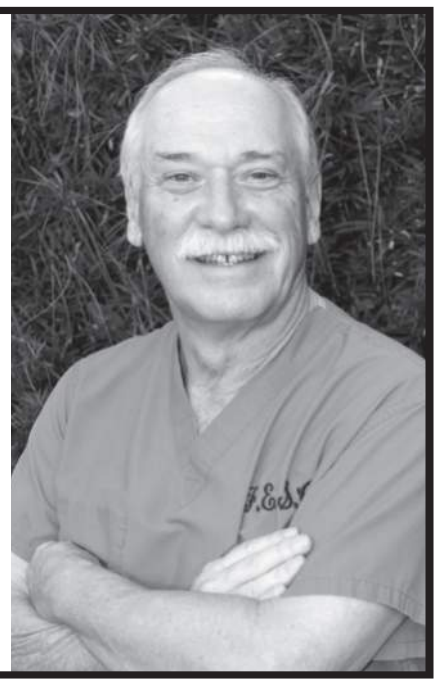

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'Legislative rate, fee changes threaten utilities cost recovery'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A number of bills and recently passed laws are threatening the full recovery of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and might cause potential rate hikes in the future if not given due consideration by the Legislature, according to executive director Alan Fletcher.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that when rates and fees are changed legislatively, there is typically no analysis of the resulting economic impact to all consumers or to the utility's cost of providing service.

As an example, a reduced rate or fee change to one customer class would normally increase the rates of the remaining customer classes to provide the same revenue requirement.

"When the Legislature [lowered] the reconnection fee, the lower fee means CUC will not recover the costs of processing and physically reconnecting customers following a non-pay disconnect. New reconnection fees were just ordered by the [Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission] in February following analysis of the cost service. The legislative change lowered that fee below that newly approved amount," according to Fletcher.

Senate Bill 18-30 was enacted into law (Public Law 18-39) last month, drastically cutting the reconnection fee for CUC customers. Under the new law, the reconnection fee for CUC residential customers is now $25, from the previous $60. The law also includes CUC commercial customers when it comes to offsetting the amount past due for utility services with the security deposit, prior to disconnecting utility services. For commercial consumers, the reconnection fee is now $75.

"Consequently, CUC will not recover its cost of service and those unrecovered costs will be picked by all customers, resulting in a subsidy to reconnected customers," Fletcher said.

In September last year, Public Law 18-19 reduced PSS water rates by 98.4 percent, from $44.30 to 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons. The wastewater rate was also reduced by 95.6 percent from $68 per 1,000 gallons to only $3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons. Under this same law, any late fees or penalties that have been assessed PSS shall be waived for fiscal year 2013.

Besides these new laws, there remains a pending legislation that would negatively impact CUC, according to Fletcher.

He cited Senate Bill 18-39 that seeks to require CUC to refund the security deposit of commercial and residential customers after a one-year period if they timely pay their utility bills in full. The same legislation also reduces to one month the security deposit for commercial clients of the utility agency.

If it becomes law, this will take away a source that CUC depends on to collect, and this will in turn increase CUC's bad debt levels, which could potentially lead to higher base rates for all customers, Fletcher said.

In 2013, CUC petitioned CPUC for a total of $5.9 million for cost recovery, of which only $2.8 million has been approved to date.

PSS decries governor's lower budget request for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education officials are disappointed after finding out that the Inos administration had rejected their proposed budget for next fiscal year.

The Board of Education approved last month a $40-million spending plan for the Public School System in fiscal year 2015. The recommendation included plans to provide salary adjustments to personnel and restoring over 100 positions, majority of which are classroom teachers, among others.

On Friday, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan reported to the board during its special meeting that Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in his budget plan submitted to the Legislature, recommended only $33 million for public schools—about $7 million less than what the system had asked for.

"We're not too happy how it [budget proposal] was put together and we felt the need [for us] to do something because it's really a decline," Sablan told the board, adding that the leadership team is working with its consultants on the best way to approach the Legislature, which will ultimately decide on the budget plan. She said that PSS will meet with lawmakers on the issue.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio and legislative consultant Diego Benavente are expected to provide the assist PSS will need to get a higher budget for public schools.

Board chair Herman T. Guerrero shared his dismay and disappointment upon learning about the governor's budget proposal. He hopes that lawmakers, in considering the situation of public schools, will allocate a higher budget for education in the end.

Guerrero said he understand the present economic state of the islands but he also pointed out that there should also be clear understanding on the responsibility of the government for children's education.

"It is important for our government to show to the community that education is also important," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

For many years now, PSS has been given a budget ranging from $29 million to $33 million to operate its 19 campuses with nearly 11,000 students. It also receives federal funds that range between $28 million and $30 million every year.

Guerrero said that federal monies are supposed to supplement public schools' local budget only and are specifically intended for certain purposes and projects.

If the budget for public schools remains low next fiscal year, one area that Guerrero said would be impacted is the much-needed repairs and maintenance of facilities, which in the end would be detrimental to the system-wide accreditation of the institution.

Guerrero disclosed that PSS was found "weak" in the area of infrastructure and resources due to the deferred maintenance of facilities.

PSS' request for a $40-million budget for fiscal year 2015 is similar to prior years' funding requests.

Under this proposal, 79 percent is allocated for personnel cost at $31.63 million, which is 12 percent higher than the current personnel budget of $28.2 million.

The proposed allocation for utilities is $3.87 million, which is higher than the current CUC budget of $2.3 million. The all others will be allocated $3 million—an increase of $1 million from what it is currently getting. The other item under the proposal is $1.5 million for school repairs and maintenance.

At present, PSS' budget is at $33 million.

Probable cause found to charge gas station rob suspect

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on Friday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against one of two ex-convicts accused of robbing a Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao.

At a preliminary hearing, Kim-Tenorio found that the Office of the Attorney General presented sufficient evidence to establish probable cause that Christopher M. Igisomar committed the offenses of robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and two counts of theft. The judge ordered the 32-year-old Igisomar to answer the charges.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Igisomar. Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government.

Igisomar's co-defendant, Joseph C. San Nicolas Jr., 25, through counsel Pamela Brown, waived his rights to a preliminary hearing.

The OAG alleged that on Feb. 8, 2014, the two entered Mobil Gas Station in Chalan Piao. Igisomar, allegedly armed with a machete, stole money from the cash register and a purse belonging to the cashier. San Nicolas held the gas attendant in a headlock from behind and held a possible piece of hollow block against his neck. The suspects then ran outside and headed north on foot.

Police's follow-up investigation and a concerned citizen's tip led to the suspects' arrest last April 4. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Public Notice - Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT that the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a regular meeting beginning on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. and continuing on Thursday, April 17, 2014, if necessary, at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Public Comments
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
• March 12, 2014 minutes
IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
A. CMS Update
B. Affordable Care Act – Impact on CHCC and Community
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
• Special Committee Report on Strategic Plan
VI. NEW BUSINESS
• FY 2015 CHCC Budget
• Board Resolution No. 2014-01 Re Budget Adoption
VII. OLD BUSINESS
A. Financial Report for 1st Quarter FY 2014
B. Revenue Collection Report for FY 2013
C. Revenue Collection Report for FY 2014
D. Departments & Divisions Performance Plans for FY 2014
E. Public Health Performance Plan for 2014
F. EHR FY 2014 Project Plan & Budget
G. Procurement of Equipment Update
H. HVAC Update
I. ICS Collection
VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
• Credentialing of Medical Staff
IX. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Next Meeting
B. Adjournment

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff vs. JOSE T. PANGELINAN, Defendant.) Civil Action No. 13-0103) AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of March, 2014.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff vs. MOHAMMED YASIN, Defendant.) Civil Action No. 14-0032) AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: MOHAMMED YASIN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 21st day of March, 2014.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. VICTORIA SN. BORJA, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION No. 14-0034) AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: VICTORIA SN. BORJA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the aboveentitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the aboveentitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 19th day of March, 2014.

/s / KRISTY DIAZ
DEPUTY CLERK I

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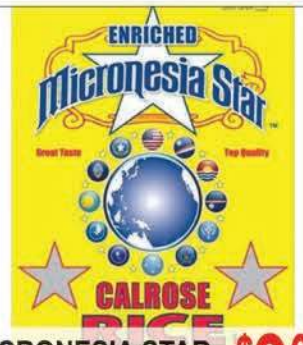

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April 13 to 19 is designated 'National Library Week'

JAYSON CAMACHO

Government officials, library council representatives, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos join together for the signing of the "National Library Week" proclamation at Joeten Kiyu Public Library last Friday, April 11, 2014 in Susupe.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos declared a weeklong celebration for the CNMI State Library System on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during a proclamation signing Friday at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe. National Library Week will be celebrated from April 13 to 19, highlighting the value of libraries, library workers, librarians, and library volunteers. The theme for this year's celebration is "Lives Change at Your Library."

The proclamation signing was attended by various partnering organizations, including the Ayuda Network and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, government officials, and staff from Rota and Tinian.

JKPL executive director John O. Gonzales said the NMI State Library System would be hosting educational programs and activities, using both physical and online resources, as part of the celebration.

Soledad Tenorio of the CNMI Library Council said that despite the public library's tight budget, it continues to inspire by shaping and touching the lives of the community.

"Whether you are young or old, National Library Week is the perfect time to become more involved in your local library and, in supporting the gift of reading, you can open many doors and possibilities of learning new things," Tenorio said.

Inos hopes the community will take advantage of the library's resources and its staff, volunteers, management, and partners and continue to make the public library a success.

Gonzales said that the Joeten Kiyu Public Library has become a "crown jewel for Micronesia at large" because "we have been featured nationally."

"It is the ideal public resource for research and homework assistance. If you have a project, you can find it in the library. We specialize in information literacy, information access and retrieval, information organization, and the creation of new information using higher order thinking skills," Gonzales said.

JKPL technical services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste thanked staff, patrons, government agencies, government officials, and Inos for showing their support for the public library.

"A library is a special thing in a community. It's an anchor institution that promotes literacy and access, especially to those who are underserved," she said.

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April and was first sponsored in 1958.

For more information, visit the public library on Saipan or call 235-7323, on Rota call 532-7328/29, and on Tinian call 433-0504/05 or visit the state library's website at www.marianaslibrary.org.

JKPL is open from 10am to 6pm from Mondays to Fridays and on Saturdays it is open from 9am to 4pm. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

JAYSON CAMACHO

Alternative Education Program 2014 graduates, AEP staff, Board of Education members, education officials, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) pose for a photo after the ceremony at Marianas High School's building 'H' in Susupe on Friday, April 11.

Eight graduate from Alternative Education Program

Tears and laughter were shared on Friday, April 11, as eight students of the Public School System's Alternative Education Program graduated from the program.

The event featured introduction of the program's staff, special remarks from the Board of Education and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, and graduation certificates presented by both principals of Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School.

Six of the graduates were from MHS: Joseph Buekis, Frankie Ramangmou, Nickson Mettao, Mathew Aaron, Roman Alexander, and Tatiana Palacios. Two were from SSHS: Josie Igisaiar, and Donald Hockett.

Program director Felisa Brel congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the program.

"As individuals with different learning styles, obstacles and challenges thrown at you every day, the story is different as you have all grown into mature young men and a woman who have showed commitment, dedication in achieving one of your life goal," Brel said.

"Your future is in your hands, no one else's….seize the opportunity as you go forward. You need to be comfortable with who you are in order to find your place in the world," she added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) personally presented congressional commendations to two of the graduates, Ramangmou and Aaron.

"There are students that work the hardest and does great improvement, and not everyone recognizes that, but I do, so I call my award 'Against all Odds,' because they fall down and dust themselves and get back up, so I presented the awards and work with the people who have worked with them, and they have worked the hardest," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

One of the graduates, Roman Alexander, 20, said that he is so happy. "I finally made it. I never thought I could make it! I want to say thank you to Mrs. Brel, Ms. Tudela, Ms. Arkoh, and Mrs. Longworth and to my fellow students for helping and successfully completing this program. Stay gold!" Alexander said.

Aaron said he is more than happy at graduating and was surprised at being recognized with his award.

Program chair Christine Tudela said the students' success in the program was brought about by the nurtured development of caring relationships among students, teachers, counselor, and administrator.

"We hope to foster a safe and conducive environment for all our students and staff," she said.

Tudela noted that the program has always believed in serving students and providing them another chance to complete requirements needed to acquire their high school diploma.

The Alternative Education Center serve students who are normally suspended out of school so that they remain engaged in learning but separated from the normal day-to-day instruction at their respective schools. The center also serves those students who are unwilling or unable to continue their education due to age or credit requirements, resulting in referral to the GED program. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

10,997 workers get initial CW1 permits since 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From Oct. 7, 2011, to Feb. 28, 2014, a total of 10,997 foreign workers or 84 percent of the total number petitioned for an initial CW1 permit got approvals while 1,416 or almost 11 percent were denied. These are based on latest data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits.

The remaining 5 percent or 683 initial petitions have yet to be adjudicated.

But in just eight months, after Dec. 31, 2014, skilled and professional foreign workers—from accountants to hotel staff and nurses, teachers, engineers, architects, mechanics, electricians, carpenters, house workers, caregivers, farmers and fishermen—will no longer be allowed to continue working in the CNMI unless U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez extends the transitional CW program.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS supervisory public affairs officer, said over the weekend that from Oct. 7, 2011, through Feb. 28, 2014, USCIS had data entered 6,758 initial I-129CW petitions.

» CW program ends in 8 months unless extended

The petitions were filed by approximately 1,997 employers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

A total of 13,096 CW1 workers are sponsored in these petitions.

"A total of 5,663 petitions were approved consisting of 10,997 beneficiaries. A total of 798 petitions were denied-other consisting of 1,416 beneficiaries," Sebrechts said.

DHS announced a limit of 14,000 non-immigrants under the CW program for fiscal year 2014 starting on Oct. 1, 2013, a 6.66-percent cut from the fiscal year 2013 cap of 15,000.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said it "doesn't make sense" that DHS approved in September 2013 a CW cap of 14,000, only to be zeroed out a little over a year later, after Dec. 31, 2014.

Sablan, like other CNMI officials and business groups, said the CNMI still does not have enough number of available and qualified U.S. workers to take over the jobs currently held by foreign workers.

The law requires an annual decrease in the CW cap until the CW program ends on Dec. 31, 2014—unless the U.S. Labor secretary decides to extend the transition period. The CNMI has been requesting a five-year extension, or up to 2019.

Sebrechts also provided the latest data on I-129CW extension petitions received through Feb. 28, 2014.

USCIS had data entered 5,334 I-129CW extension with the same employer petitions.

They were filed by approximately 1,488 different employers.

A total of 9,063 CW1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

"A total of 4,604 petitions were approved consisting of 7,496 beneficiaries. A total of 91 petitions were denied consisting of 181 beneficiaries," Sebrechts said.

Foreign workers whose CW permits have yet to be renewed on the anniversary of their original permits are supposed to stop working until they get their renewed permit from USCIS.

USCIS also provided during the weekend I-129CW extension-all other petitions received through Feb. 28, 2014.

These include 1,418 I-129CW petitions data entered. They were filed by approximately 615 different employers.

A total of 2,045 CW1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

"A total of 966 petitions were approved consisting of 1,274 beneficiaries. A total of 152 petitions were denied-other consisting of 245 beneficiaries," Sebrechts said.

Man, 58, hits girlfriend's face with stick in a fit of jealousy

A woman was injured in the face after her boyfriend allegedly hit her with a wooden cane out of jealousy during their drinking session in Chalan Kanoa on Wednesday night.

The victim sustained a 3-inch laceration just above the right eyebrow. Medics arrived and treated her, police said.

Joseph Pangelinan, 58, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $15,000 cash.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that a police officer responded on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:11pm, to an assault and battery incident at a parking lot of C.K. Phone Store in Chalan Kanoa.

As the officer and the medics were approaching the C.K. Phone Store, a man waved, directing them to MSV Building where they later saw the victim lying on the ground. The victim was screaming, her head resting in the arms of a man identified as a certain Perry, who was seated on the ground.

The officer saw bloodstains all over the pavement and on the victim's jeans. The victim told police that Pangelinan hit her with a stick. The stick, measuring about five feet long and two inches in diameter, was left at the scene.

The victim told police that she was drinking at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa with her boyfriend, Pangelinan, and their friend Perry.

She said they later moved to MSV Building where they continued drinking. As she was leaving to check her children behind the Bank of Guam in Chalan Piao, Pangelinan allegedly grabbed Perry's wooden cane and used it to hit her face.

Sakisat said that during their interview at DOC on Thursday, Pangelinan disclosed that his girlfriend left their house to deliver lemons to a restaurant. When she failed to return home, Pangelinan said he looked for her and found her drinking with two men, including her former boyfriend, near the U.S. Post Office in CK. Pangelinan said he joined them in the soju drinking session.

When it started to get hot, they moved to a shady area. He said as she was about to leave he picked up a stick and hit her with it.

Pangelinan admitted he did it because he was still mad and jealous. He said he left the area because he was scared upon seeing her bleeding. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI DOL collaborates with CNMI HSEM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Special Assistant Marvin Seman presents CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero with five radios for the CNMI DOL Enforcement personnel on Saipan.

The CNMI Department of Labor, in its effort to increase enforcement activities throughout all business sectors, finds it necessary to equip its Labor Enforcement personnel with communication devices for purposes of emergency assistance and for making contact with the main office while out conducting enforcement activities. Despite limited resources to procure such devices, CNMI DOL looks at other opportunities to leverage with other federally funded state partners engaged in security and emergency responsibilities that allows them to assist other state departments within the enforcement line of work.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office Special Assistant Marvin Seman and CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero entered into a partnership to assist the CNMI DOL Enforcement personnel when conducting DOL enforcement activities. This state collaboration initially secured five radios for the CNMI DOL Enforcement personnel on Saipan. Tinian and Rota is forthcoming as soon as more radio units are available. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Daiki Maru's salvage operation begins

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Navy, in partnership with other federal and local agencies, has begun salvage operations for the grounded Japanese commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7* in outer Apra Harbor on April 11.

A contract salvage team dislodged the *Daiki Maru 7* from the reef in outer Apra Harbor. The vessel is secured against a temporary platform to be dismantled for transport to shore and proper disposal. All recoverable hazardous materials have been removed from the vessel, which ran aground Feb. 13.

"This final stage shows the collective effort and dedication of the Navy and the unified command striving towards a common goal of returning the environment back to its original state," said Cmdr. David Ellis, executive officer of U.S. Naval Base Guam. "The professionalism and dedication of all partnering agencies during this operation have been incredible. It is a great testament that when an incident occurs, teams will work together to respond quickly and effectively."

Protection of the environment remains a top priority for Navy officials and the unified command.

The unified command consists of representatives from Naval Base Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and the responsible party. Other agencies that have been involved in all aspects of planning from the standup include Joint Region Marianas operations department, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas environmental personnel, NOAA, Guam Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabras Marine and Osroco. ***(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)***

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON

The *Daikio Maru 7* is secured against a temporary platform in outer Apra Harbor after being pulled free from the reef on April 12. Since the fishing vessel ran aground in Apra Harbor last Feb. 13, all recoverable hazardous materials from the vessel have been removed while the Navy and other partner agencies have taken continuous steps to mitigate environmental damage.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Medicare's real doctor payment problem

The news that a small percentage of the country's physicians collected billions of dollars from Medicare in a single year may or may not be a testament to individual greed; some of the top recipients are under investigation for allegedly bilking the system, while others work long hours delivering costly care. But it is a powerful reminder that the program needs to stop rewarding doctors for the quantity of care they deliver rather than the quality. Happily, there's a bipartisan plan to do just that; unhappily, lawmakers haven't been able to agree on how to cover its cost. If Congress needed any further incentive to settle its differences, the fact that 1,000 doctors raked in $3 billion from Medicare should provide it.

The Obama administration released details Wednesday on $77 billion worth of payments made in 2012 by Medicare Part B, which pays for doctors and other health-care professionals. Part B is financed mainly by the government, so taxpayers have a keen interest in the program's financial integrity. The new data, however, reveal some alarmingly large payouts. For example, more than a dozen physicians each collected more than $10 million from Medicare in 2012, and thousands of specialists in four disciplines—three cancer-related fields and ophthalmology—averaged more than $300,000.

It's risky to leap to conclusions just from the numbers, given that the payments may include reimbursements for expensive drugs that doctors provided or services by multiple members of a team. Yet the concentration of payments—a mere 2 percent of the doctors participating in the program took in almost a quarter of the fees—exemplifies the problem with Medicare's "fee for service" payment system. This system ignores the value and effectiveness of the care provided, paying attention only to how many treatments are rendered. That gives doctors an incentive to provide the most expensive and intensive forms of care, not necessarily the treatments that work best.

Earlier this year, the top Republicans and Democrats on three influential congressional committees came up with a plan that would have encouraged Medicare doctors to switch from fee-for-service to alternative payment plans that reward quality and efficiency. It also would have replaced an ineffective formula for slowing the growth in Part B costs by cutting the fees paid for most doctors' services.

Unfortunately, the plan stalled because of a dispute over how to pay for the measure, and Congress enacted minor Medicare reforms that left the fee-for-service system intact for at least another year. The new disclosures about enormous Medicare payouts should send lawmakers back to work on the bill to steer doctors into payment plans that yield better results for patients—and taxpayers.

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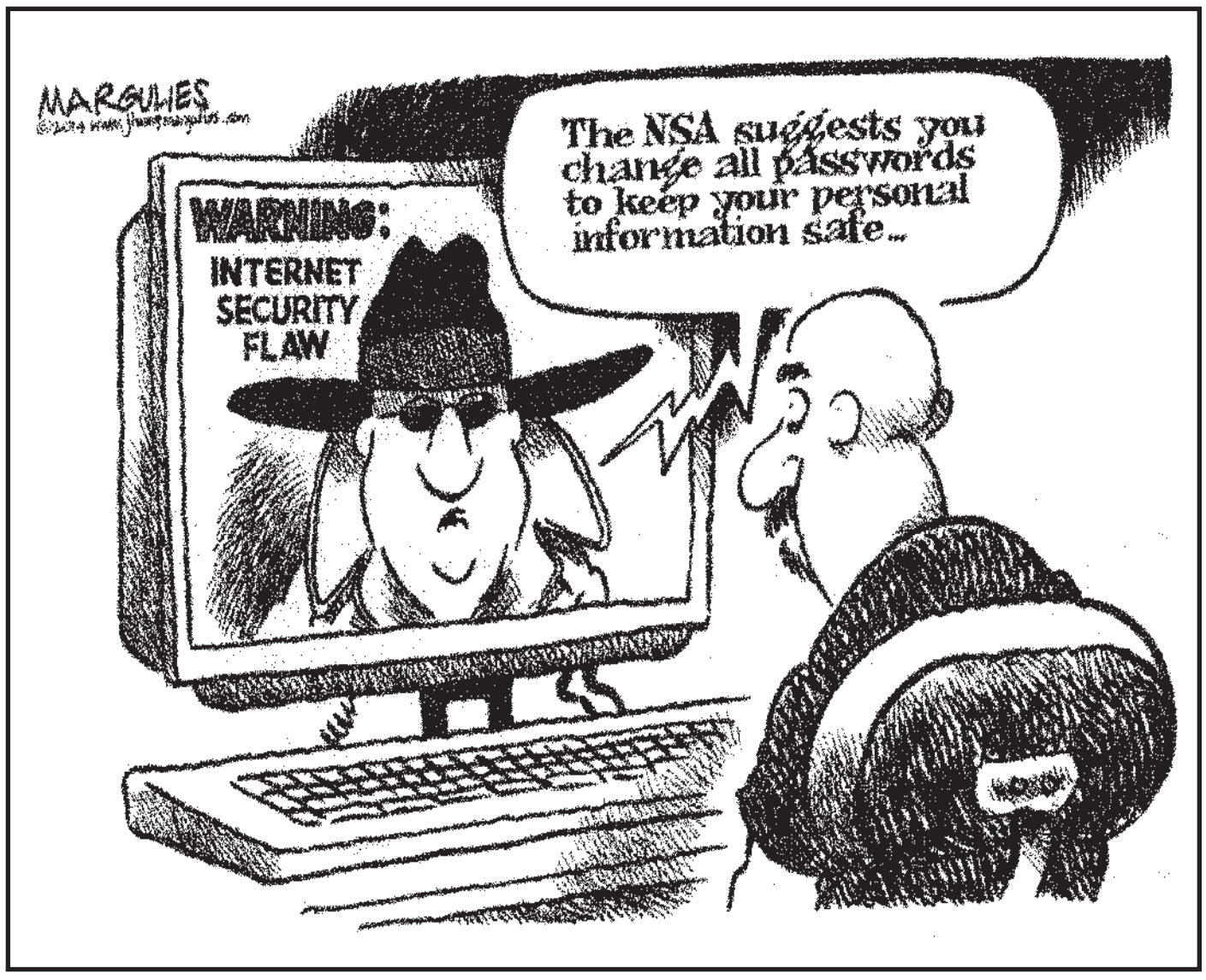

MARGULIES
WARNING:
INTERNET SECURITY FLAW
The NSA suggests you change all passwords to keep your personal information safe...

By the River Jordan

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I hung out with adults in church gatherings. My father, a Methodist pastor, had a co-Ilocano gentleman bishop who was "family." His wife gathered the women while the men (women ordination came later) went about their business. I tagged along with mother.

I remember the bishop's wife with a luggage full of vials she sold to her audience at one peso (50 U.S. cents at the time) per bottle. It was free to the borderline-poor ministers' wives! The water content was scooped from the River Jordan on her last pilgrimage. The one peso contributed to the cost of transport.

I was not much of a Sunday Bible school devotee, but I knew enough of the role the River Jordan played in the life of our childhood hero, Jesus of Nazareth. From the Sea of Galilee flowed the river's life into the Dead Sea, not unlike the story of barefoot Nazarene getting crucified in Jerusalem.

I never made it to Israel. I missed it by a couple of weeks when Israel went into its Six-Day War in 1967. The Star of David decided to fly over Syria's Golan Heights, the Jordan's West Bank, and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. I was interested in the Paris of the Middle East at the time, Beirut in Lebanon, as a summer break destination when I was studying in the United States.

Reared with the story of the Philippines casting the vote that got Israel into the United Nations, in a household dominated by stories of Moses, Joshua and Iesu of the Judeo-Christian tradition, I did not mind retaking Jericho in the West Bank, and mounting guns on the Golan Heights, sights set on the Damascus road of Paul. David of less than 3 million people stared the belligerent glare of 120 million Goliaths from Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine; it was not hard to be politically aligned with Israel. Supportive of the underdog, I was also swayed by Hollywood's versions of the Holocaust used to justify Israel's existence at the expense of Palestinian infidels.

It is Holy Week in Christendom, the annual rehearsal of a familiar story of a triumphal march to Jerusalem from the Bethany of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus through the table upsetting of money changers at the temple, to his calling the powers-that-be "hypocrites and snakes," and on to the shedding of a tear for Jerusalem at the Mount of Olives, a night vigil in the garden of Gethsemane, a sound of silence at Caiaphas' Sanhedrin and Pilate's Praetorium, to the ignominious three-hour hanging on the cross in Golgotha, and the eventual burial into Joseph of Arimathea's tomb, found empty on the third day. The story told more than 19 centuries ago has since been embellished many times over so much so that its scriptural metaphors have become the object of debate in Western literalists' accounts of history.

But history does not a drop of water make; story does with tears. The human story relies on metaphors for the infinite mystery, the immeasurable depth, the endless vastness even of existence's finitude, which lead artists to know in their bones, like HH's heroic *Journey to the East* where the main character concludes that creation is more engaging that the creator, that art is more interesting than the artist.

How many tears have come out of a simple issue like water in the River Jordan in recent years? *Eretz Yisrael* names the story of Abraham and his progeny known as the area "between Dan and Beersheba"; there was no quarrel with boundaries of the real estate as remembered accounts addressed the culture (souls) rather than precision in geography. The told memory survived the Babylonians and Assyrians, Persians and Macedonians, Greeks and Romans, Meccans and Ottomans, Semites and Brits.

The warrior Ben-Gurion declared the new state of *Eretz Israel* in 1948. The Jewish State had not rested ever since. They mauled the opposition into camps; diverted fresh water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev, and when Syria and Jordan did the same on the headwaters feeding into the sea of Tiberius, little David unleashed air power and *Eretz Israel* kept adding more miles to its real estate. It is evidently going after old Solomon's geographic boundaries!

The water of life, meanwhile, is drying up. There is no shortage of water in the planet with the melting polar caps; it's the potable water that is at issue. The U.S. Midwest is a disastrous silent spring as fertilizers and pesticide in the farms headed to freshwater aquifers. The drying River Jordan waters regional conflicts.

Benzene and p-xylene recently come to the fore in China. They are byproducts in petrochemical plants. Benzene is carcinogenic and p-xylene causes complex neural disorders. They are also favored ingredients in the making of plastic bottles of beverages we drink and wrap food we microwave. Both are highly flammable; a Guangdong plant exploded not too long ago, eliciting local protests. The city of Lanzhou, Ganzu, has benzene in its drinking water at 20 times acceptable limit, compliments of a nearby petrochemical plant.

The sad side of Holy Week has become contemporaneous as the water of life riles the economic, political, and cultural shades of our lives. "This is my blood, poured out for you…"

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Essence of self-government

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Since 36 years ago, we took over the reins of self-government under a permanent arrangement with our national government under a duly approved Constitution.

We were filled with enthusiasm and hope for brighter tomorrows under a government, electing our own public officials Marianas-wide, including a non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

There were good and bad days when we had a thriving economy. Today, we are at the brink of near total economic annihilation for our lack of vision and leadership. We're now eyeing exporting cattle to nearby Guam, a huge economic leap forward!

Some have blamed Uncle Sam for failing to provide for a "progressively higher standard of living." We do so, openly ignoring the seven-year guaranteed funding intended to set up the CNMI's economic foundation and growth. We attained it in the mid-'80s and '90s. We had tons of money that we even told Congress in 1993 (the undersigned was at that U.S. congressional hearing) to sever any further grant funds for CNMI government operations.

Perhaps the hangover of the boom years had eluded our nimble minds when the garment industry started dismantling to deploy elsewhere, coupled by the Asian crisis that adversely lowered the boom on tourism. Leadership failed to see the impending drop and annihilation of the local economy. I even took photos at La Fiesta Mall in San Roque of businesses closing to show leadership that something's gone terribly wrong. But it opted to ignore it over a more responsible approach.

The "river of no return," a seemingly fitting metaphor, started rolling down the hills of the NMI, taking everything in its path right into the abyss of the deep blue. Today, we have a cumulative deficit of some $1.2 billion we addressed with quick fixes like the Saipan casino law.

I never knew that driving the NMI into every fiscal ditch was part and whole of the plan to bankrupt our so-called self-government. So we sigh and ponder "what now?" that includes policymakers who never had any clue what happened. Wow! What trophy in arrogance, if not ignorance, or both!

A lot of the miscalculations revolve around shortsighted policies that cater to the "now" culture so pathetically far removed from thoughtful review of the long-term effects of half-cocked measures. It resembles the mindset that increasing minimum wage would create wealth for the lowest rung of folks in the pay scale. It seems shortsightedness is a new forte here.

We need not subscribe and firm up the instant soba mindset. We have sufficient educated human resources to sit down to plan the future of these isles. Right now, I could name four issues to ease the hardship of our people in the villages.

Stunning that our so-called leadership has stared at the same issues with blurred vision, ill-equipped to grab them so they gradually move the needle of growth forward. Too many sleepy heads on the switchboard it's humiliating!

Why are we convinced that self-government includes ensuring the insolvency (bankruptcy) of the NMI government? It need not be this way and with some sense of vision and spiritual being we could reset our buttons and change the ugly faces of misery and destitution from devouring our livelihood permanently. It is all in the palm of our hands.

Wealth and jobs creation, anybody?

The concept, apparently missed oceans apart by so-called leadership, requires planning that involves key sectors of the local community. This is vital so that policies such as the Saipan casino law do not destroy opportunities for Tinian and Rota or self-destruction of our way of life. Obviously, we exacted the complete opposite.

Not only did the new law slam planned investments on Tinian and Rota, but the entire CNMI for that matter. It shows the obvious lack of perception, clarity, and foresight in policymaking. It was saddled with the instant soba mindset that excluded "we the people."

It was a shortsighted law that obviously must have lured Da Big Boys into the nether land of "Pay To Play" culture, confirming once and for all that our interests as permanent host of these isles doesn't matter at all. We did nothing but deepen the roots of uncertainty, suspicion, and corruption on these isles.

Why would so-called leadership gamble away the future of our children? Didn't our ancestors strengthen the culture of responsibility since centuries ago? Why would we risk destroying the last ship of hope in peace and tranquility that we enjoy as islanders right here at home?

If anything, casino did nothing but dispose the apparent lack of spiritual being in the pro-casino legislators who risked everything for failing our people in their fiduciary responsibility. Well, if you can't see beyond your myopic views, please step aside for we are ready to take back what's ours. We know that together with our educated young people we can begin planning and rebuilding our future without pro-casino legislators.

Give Kathleen Sebelius credit—she survived the furnace

By BARBARA SHELLY
The Kansas City Star

Barbara Shelly is a columnist for the Kansas City Star. *Readers may write to her at:* Kansas City Star*, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at bshelly@kcstar.com.*

So this is it for Kathleen Sebelius. The former Kansas governor apparently will officially announce her resignation as U.S. health and human services secretary on Friday.

The headlines make her sound like a combat casualty, ending her "stormy tenure" after the "disastrous rollout" of HealthCare.gov, stumbling away battered and bloodied.

Sebelius

But, seriously, the woman has lived in a furnace for five years. She's been dragged in front of congressional committees, pilloried by pundits and politicians, abandoned by friends (looking at you, Sen. Pat Roberts) and asked to build a massive health insurance marketplace with scant resources. Frankly, a lesser individual would have bailed months ago.

No doubt, the rollout of the insurance exchange marketplace was horrible, and it exposed serious management weaknesses. But look, presidents since Harry S. Truman have been trying to reform America's health-care system so that people of all ages, incomes and health conditions have access to affordable medical care.

We're not all the way there yet. States like Missouri and Kansas still want to deny Medicaid to low-income working families, for instance. But we're closer to that goal than we've ever been before, and Sebelius has been a big part of it.

It's definitely time for her to go. She's been in the middle of too many fracases. The website debacle is too fresh. There's an election coming up and she's a convenient punch line.

But let's take the long view. People in time will forget about the blank screens and error messages that accompanied the start of HealthCare.gov. The website will continue to improve and people will find it easier and more understandable. Already 7.5 million persons have coverage through the insurance exchange.

The Affordable Care Act has passed the point of repeal. Its consumer protections are changing America. People no longer need fear denial of care or financial ruin because they have a serious illness. Young people can remain on their parents' insurance policies until they are more secure. There are no more lifetime caps on coverage.

Health care reform has been like a big boulder scraping up a hill. And there's a long distance yet to climb. But the system is fairer and better now than it was when President Barack Obama began his push five years ago, and Sebelius has been in the middle of it all.

Someday, not too long from now, Sebelius will assume a comfortable spot in history as Obama's HHS secretary during the epic health care wars. She voluntarily entered the furnace, and she stood in with a measure of grace.

Meanwhile, I suspect there's a beach in Sebelius's near future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lies and the casino investor $1 million giveaway

The governor recently announced that there were two interested investors in the Saipan casino and after checking I have confirmed that the governor lied. Yes, he was right about there being one investor but his claim about the Dynasty's interest was not true—the Dynasty is not interested in a Saipan casino, just like only one hotel was interested in e-gaming. I guess the governor thinks voters are stupid and realize that the people will recognize his admonishment as being a half-truth which we all know is a whole lie! Furthermore, the fact that there is only one investor is sending signals to voters that we are being bamboozled again. In fact, this 15- and 30-day notice is more proof of this all being a setup as it would take the average investor several months to create a legitimate proposal that will commit hundreds of millions to build a hotel and make the 30 million dollar payment.

The investor needs to know that he will be literally giving away a million dollars in application fees because this local law to create a Saipan casino will never stand the test of time. The people are not so stupid that the majority will just hand over the exclusive rights to all gambling in the CNMI to one investor, especially when the investor has never introduced themselves nor said one word to the people of the CNMI. But we are supposed to put our trust, destiny, and entire economic future in their hands with a law that doesn't have any teeth requiring anything within a specific time period other than the application fee and $30 million for voting season—it is a double-cross that is absolutely ridiculous!

If this investor wants to give away a nonrefundable application fee in clear defiance of the people who own the government then go right ahead, we can use the money but you need to know that the gig is up! The people can already see the governor is manipulating things just to get elected, as most voters know the retirees represent the biggest voting block with real consequences in the coming election. It seems the governor thinks if he can get the retiree vote he will win, which is simple political science. But I have a feeling that there are many retirees who are not going to go for a governor who plays manipulation and political favoritism for investors over respecting the people's decision and doing the right thing. It is common knowledge the governor is wrong in what he is doing with the implications of investor favoritism and payoffs and what he has failed to do in finding alternatives to casinos so he could force casinos down our throats just like I predicted years ago!

I warned voters and retirees for years that this administration, which hasn't changed, was not going to let any economic activity materialize that could prove we don't need casinos. I told readers they were going to suffer until they accepted casinos. I even told readers the decision to kill the Retirement Fund was all part of the plan to get casinos and get re-elected and sad part is this plan I exposed years ago is still working in the minds of a lot of voters who need to wake up and take back our government. I wouldn't be surprised if voters elected any and everyone except for those who are part of the present administration, just like they did in the last election. We need new, different, and better people on the Hill because most of this group can only deliver one political favor after another to investors and manipulate issues to help investors and to get re-elected.

P.S.: The word over the coconut wire is that someone got paid for this casino and if you think about it we did see too many representatives write one bill after another to get casinos, as if the winning bill's author was going win a prize, get paid, or something. There have been close to 20 different casino bills and not one alternative bill in the past decade. Voters are not stupid and for the sake of all of us I pray they are going to prove it in November.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

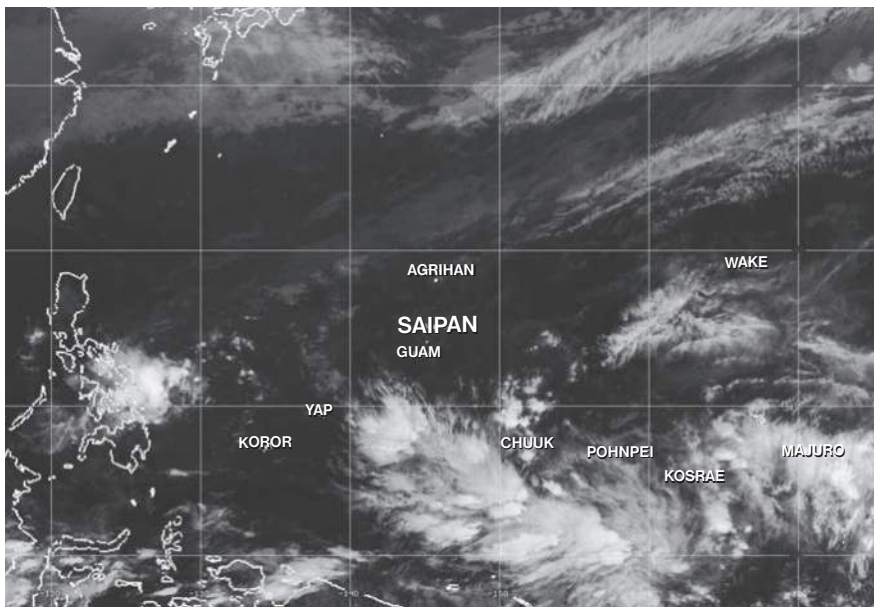
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲83	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲67	▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼52
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼68
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼56
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Osaka	Sunny	▲68	▼50
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼52
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲67	▼44
Tokyo	Windy	▲66	▼53
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island through 25N160E to near Minami Tori Shima at 24N158E then continues as a shear line to end at 17N130E. Patchy clouds and showers are seen along and up to 220 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough meanders southeastward from the remnants of Tropical Depression Peipah centered northwest of Koror at 10N130E through two weak circulations centered south of Chuuk near 4N150E and near Kosrae at 6N163E to end south of Majuro at EQ172E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 190 miles of a line from 7N144E to 2N165E. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls but just south of Majuro between 1N and 6N from 167E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:37 PM	5:02 AM
Tuesday	6:30 PM	5:44 AM
Wednesday	7:25 PM	6:29 AM
Thursday	8:21 PM	7:16 AM
Friday	9:19 PM	8:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Inos inks 2 obligation bond laws, vetoes DPL fee waiver bill

» 2 appointed to Zoning Board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Friday and Wednesday two related bills allowing the issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds. The governor also signed on Thursday a local measure appropriating $40,000 in poker license fees for Rota patients and other programs, but vetoed on Friday a House bill allowing a waiver of public land fees for entities constructing and maintaining certain driveways and sidewalks structures.

The governor also appointed two individuals to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

Inos signed Friday House Bill 18-171, Senate Draft 1 into Public Law 18-45, amending P.L. 18-12 to provide for the issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds and to acknowledge the existence of an actuarial determination of the CNMI government's unfunded liability to the Retirement Fund. The bill was introduced by Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan).

This came two days after the governor signed another of Taitano's bill, H.B. 18-170, into Public Law 18-44, amending the Commonwealth Development Authority Act of 1984 to allow it to issue bonds other than general obligation bonds.

The measure also allows the use of gross receipt taxes as pledge to the debt service.

This comes at a time when the CNMI is planning to float a pension obligation bond. Although the law allows CDA to float up to $300 million, the government wants to keep it within the $60 million to $120 million range.

The government has been trying to meet its pension obligations such as the annual payment to the settlement fund, the restoration of the 25-percent cut in pension, return of the Retirement Fund contribution interest, and health and life insurance premium payment.

On Thursday, the governor also signed Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-44, S1 into Rota Local Law 18-11, appropriating $40,000 in poker license fees for Rota patients and four other programs.

Of the total appropriated amount, $24,250 will be used for the monthly subsistence allowance of Rota patients undergoing dialysis treatment and with terminal illness, outside Rota.

A total of $1,500 will be for the Rota Municipal Scholarship, while $12,250 will be for the Rota Mayor's Office to cover airfare, ground transportation, and associated costs for Rota participants in the 33rd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on Saipan from April 25 to 27.

The Pacific Islands Bilingual/Bicultural Association event on Rota from June 22 to 26 will get $1,000, while another $1,000 will be for the Rotary Club of Saipan to assist in the airfare costs of Rota students participating in the Annual Rock to Read competition on Saipan on April 12.

Vetoed bill

Inos vetoed on Friday Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-120, which seeks to allow the Department of Public Lands to grant revocable consent without fees to individuals, businesses, or organizations to construct and maintain certain structures on public property such as driveways and sidewalks.

The governor said he vetoed the bill because it is based on "at least partially inaccurate information, omits a critical definition, misconstrues DPL operating procedures, and does not contain standards to ensure that structures built on public land actually beautify the Commonwealth."

"While I absolutely agree that beautifying the Commonwealth will have a positive effect on tourism, the bill needs refining," Inos told House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) in his veto message.

The governor described as "inaccurate" the bill's assertion that "a majority of the private homes, businesses, and organizations surrounded by public land cannot maintain and beautify the surrounding property in which they occupy without having to pay fees to [DPL]."

He said DPL does not charge any fee to private individuals who wish to maintain and/or beautify the public land surrounding their residences. He said these individuals may do so without paying any fee.

With respect to businesses, DPL does charge $100 per year for such permits, plus a $40 renewal fee, the governor said.

"This fee to businesses seems minimal, however, and helps DPL cover its operating expenses in issuing the permits. Again, private individuals are not charged any fee for maintaining or beautifying the public land surrounding their residences," the governor added.

He pointed out that the bill does not define the term "certain structures," which could refer to any number of things including houses, garages, tin fences, and water tanks.

Inos also said that DPL does not give prior consent to persons to build structures on public land. When businesses or individuals build structures on public land illegally, however, then there is an encroachment issue.

Finally, he said, although the bill intends to encourage individuals and businesses to beautify the CNMI, there is no guarantee that allowing businesses and individuals to build structures on public land will add to the beauty of public land.

"Although the bill's intent to beautify the Commonwealth is noble, in its current form the bill will likely lead to litigation and may not accomplish its goal. Perhaps the Legislature can work with DPL to identify the problem more specifically so that the bill can be more narrowly tailored and effective in the future," Inos added.

Zoning Board appointees

Also on Friday, the governor re-appointed Herman P. Sablan and appointed Elizabeth Balajadia to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

The appointments are subject to the confirmation of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

If confirmed, Sablan and Balajadia will each serve a two-year term commencing on the date of their confirmation.

Magnitude 7.6 quake, waves strike Solomon Islands

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A powerful magnitude-7.6 earthquake triggered large waves in the Solomon Islands on Sunday, and authorities were trying to determine if there was any serious damage or injuries.

Government spokesman George Herming said people throughout the Pacific island chain awoke to the strong quake at 7:14 a.m. He said that people on Makira and nearby islands southeast of the capital, Honiara, reported seeing three large waves after the quake.

He said there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center on Sunday canceled a tsunami warning after earlier issuing an alert for some Pacific islands. The center reported that sea level readings indicate a small tsunami was generated that may have caused some destruction near the epicenter.

AP

The U.S. Geological Survey reported the epicenter was 323 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Honiara, at a depth of 29 kilometers (18 miles).

The Solomon Islands, home to 600,000 people, was already reeling from devastating flash floods that struck Honiara and other areas April 3. The floods have killed 23 people and left 9,000 more homeless. Herming said up to 30 more people remain missing.

"It has really been a tough time," he said.

Andrew Catford, the Solomon Islands country director for World Vision, said that the aid group's staff in the Kirakira office in Makira province reported that there was no tsunami, but strong currents and heavy waves pounding the reefs. He said the group's staff evacuated to higher ground as a precaution.

"We felt this one strongly in Honiara. It was close to 30 seconds long," he said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center initially issued a warning for the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. U.S. officials said there was no threat of a tsunami to the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington state, Hawaii or Alaska. Paul Whitmore, director of the National Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska, said powerful waves posed no threat to the U.S. West Coast or Canada after the quake.

The Solomon Islands lies on the "Ring of Fire" - an arc of earthquake and volcanic activity that stretches around the Pacific Rim.

WHO responds to health needs from flash floods in Solomons

Heavy rains from April 3 to 5, 2014, resulted in flash flooding in Honiara, the capital city of Solomon Islands. The government declared a state of emergency in Honiara and the rest of Guadalcanal province. Over 52,000 people are affected across the entire country; many have lost their homes and livelihoods. The death toll has risen to 23.

"We are very concerned about the situation in Solomon Islands. WHO rapidly deployed a team of health experts to Honiara to assess and address the life-saving needs of the people in the affected area. WHO has provided funds for emergency relief, and are on standby to provide further assistance as required," said Dr Liu Yunguo, director of WHO Division of Pacific Technical Support.

In Guadalcanal province, river systems across the northwest, central and north of the island have flooded, destroying homes, damaging bridges and displacing families. Water supplies and infrastructure including sewerage and electricity have been damaged. Food, water, clothing blankets, mosquito nets and cooking utensils are needed. Up to 10,000 residents are displaced, with more than 9000 people in 24 evacuation centers. Several cases of diarrhea and malaria have been reported in the evacuations centers.

"Now the main concern is disease—preventing disease outbreak is a priority. We are working closely with Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services to provide necessary support, including strengthening surveillance to rapidly detect disease outbreaks and other potential health risks related to food and water contamination," said Audrey Aumua, acting WHO Representative in Solomon Islands.

The health needs from the flooding are significant. WHO staff on the ground, and from Suva-based office and regional office in Manila are working around the clock to match the needs of Solomon Islands with incoming assistance. WHO and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services are leading the health response, and together with development partners, health agencies are working to ensure coordinated and effective external assistance is available where needed to save lives.

This flooding in the Solomon Islands comes just over one year after a tsunami displaced thousands of people in February 2013 and less than one year a widespread dengue outbreak from January to May 2013. ***(WHO)***

A. Samoa retailer to pay nearly $120,000 in back wages

American Samoa department store retailer Manua's Inc. failed to pay at least the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage and overtime premium to 252 workers employed at their three store locations in Tafuna, Pago Pago, and Maleimi during the period of Sept. 21, 2013, through Jan. 25, 2014. Total back wages owed is $119,850.

Minimum wage violations occurred when new employees worked 5 to 8 or more hours in a day and were paid a flat day rate of $20. Other employees were reduced below the American Samoa retail minimum wage rate of $4.60 per hour when paycheck deductions were made for violations of company policies such as talking back to managers, clocking in late, and failing to finish an assignment.

Overtime violations occurred when the employer failed to pay employees for all hours worked including time worked past the end of their scheduled shift or during their lunch period.

The employer agreed to pay the back wages in full and to immediately comply with the FLSA's provisions.

"Regardless of a new employee's probationary status, they are entitled to receive at least the minimum wage rate. Also, all employees should be paid for their time actually worked, not just their weekly scheduled hours which don't factor unexpectedly working through lunch periods or working later than anticipated." said Terence Trotter, the division's district director in Hawaii. ***(U.S. Labor)***

BEST WISHES!

Happy wedding anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Joel Crisostomo! Best wishes to you both on this special day. May the love that you share last your lifetime through, as you make a wonderful pair. God bless. We love you. Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Finance officials: Global economy turns the corner

WASHINGTON (AP)—The world's top finance officials expressed confidence Saturday that the global economy finally has turned the corner to stronger growth. This time, they may be right.

Despite challenges that include market jitters about the Federal Reserve's bond-buying slowdown and global tensions over Ukraine, policymakers said they believe there is a foundation for sustained growth that can provide jobs for the millions of people still looking for work five years after the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"Creating a more dynamic, sustainable, balanced and job-rich global economy remains our paramount collective goal," the policy-setting panel of the 188-nation International Monetary Fund said in a concluding communique.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and the finance ministers who sit on the IMF's policy panel said they believed the world had entered a new phase with stronger growth that will begin to make in-roads into unemployment that remains painfully high in many nations.

At a closing news conference, Lagarde referred to the years 2008 through 2010 as an economic "disaster" and she said now "we are moving into a strengthening phase."

The IMF in its latest economic forecast predicted global growth would strengthen to 3.6 percent this year and an even better 3.9 percent in 2015.

That growth is being supported by a stronger recovery in the United States, which private economists believe could grow this year at the fastest pace in five years. This strength in the world's largest economy is helping to offset some slowing in major emerging markets such as China although emerging economies are still powering ahead at rates well ahead of developed nations.,

The finance officials acknowledged a number of threats to their forecast, ranging from periodic stock market jitters as investors worry that the Fed may mishandle its effort to gradually end the bond buying it has used to lower long-term interest rates to concerns that the political standoff over Russia's annexation of Crimea could undermine market confidence.

On Ukraine, the finance ministers endorsed the IMF package of $14 billion to $18 billion in loans to help the country avoid a financial meltdown but urged a go-slow approach to imposing additional economic sanctions on Russia. The United States had hoped for more resolve in this area to discourage Russia from trying to annex more of Ukraine but European nations, with closer economic ties to Russia, said diplomatic efforts should be given more time to work.

GM slow to act on recalls, House documents show

DETROIT (AP)—Documents released by a House subcommittee show that managers and employees at General Motors were often slow to react to safety problems—and that one part of GM often didn't know what another was doing.

One of the documents is an email showing that General Motors CEO Mary Barra was made aware of power steering problems with the Saturn Ion back in October of 2011, when she was head of product development. It took the company more than two years to recall the cars for that problem.

The power-steering issue is separate from the ignition switch defect that is at the heart of a separate recall of 2.6 million small cars that is the subject of a subcommittee investigation. GM has linked the switch defect to 13 deaths.

The email was among dozens of documents released Friday. Others show that engineers were unaware the switch had been changed in 2007, and that regulators at times found GM to be slow to respond to requests for information.

GM has admitted knowing about the switch problem for more than a decade, yet it failed to recall the cars until February. The switch can unexpectedly slip out of the "run" position and shut down the cars' engines, which cuts off power steering and stops air bags from deploying.

The email does not link Barra to any decisions made regarding the switch. She has said that she only become aware of the matter in December. She has distanced herself from GM's slow action on safety issues in the past, saying she's trying to install a culture that is focused on consumer protection.

When Barra received the 2011 email, the company's safety and recall operations reported to her. The email referenced an article from The New York Times that detailed a March 2010 recall of Chevrolet Cobalts and Pontiac G5s to fix faulty power steering motors. If the motors fail, steering can become difficult, causing crashes. The article raised questions about why GM hadn't recalled the Ion, which had the same power steering motor.

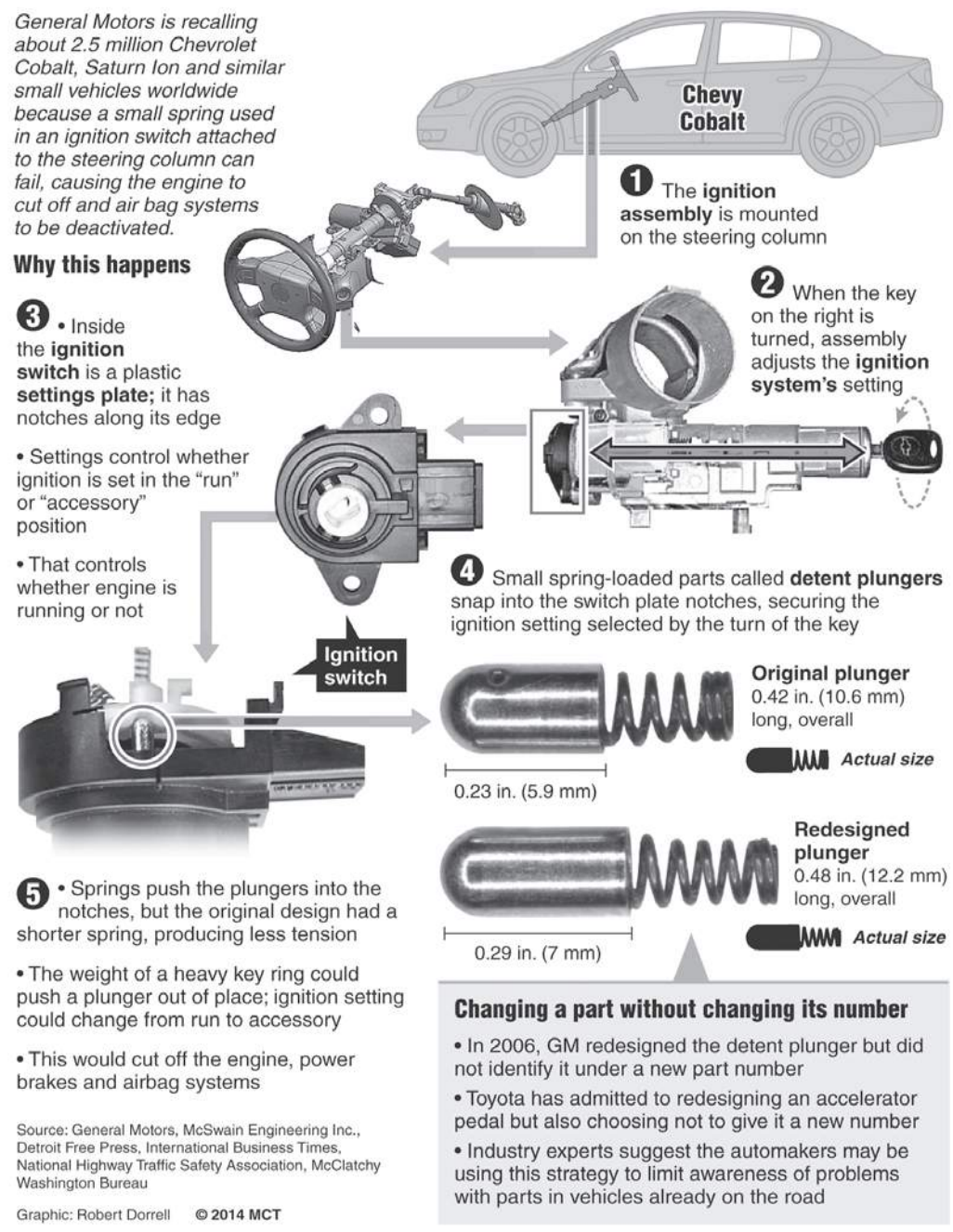
"During the initial Cobalt case, the Ion data did not justify being included," GM employee Terry Woychowski told Barra in the email. "This situation has been evolving. We will meet and understand the latest data."

Joan Claybrook, a consumer advocate who is a former head of NHTSA, said the email raises the question of why Barra wasn't told about other small-car problems when she was the product chief.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a December 2010 document that there were 16 crashes and two injuries in the affected Ions.

GM decided on March 31 to recall the Ions. Spokesman Alan Adler would not say what changed between 2011 and now. But he sent a quote via email from Jeff Boyer, GM's new safety chief, that said, "We have recalled some of these vehicles before for the same issue and offered extended warranties on others, but we did not do enough."

Tiny part in ignition switch at issue in crashes


General Motors is recalling about 2.5 million Chevrolet Cobalt, Saturn Ion and similar small vehicles worldwide because a small spring used in an ignition switch attached to the steering column can fail, causing the engine to cut off and air bag systems to be deactivated.
Why this happens
Chevy Cobalt
1 The ignition assembly is mounted on the steering column
2 When the key on the right is turned, assembly adjusts the ignition system's setting
3 • Inside the ignition switch is a plastic settings plate; it has notches along its edge
• Settings control whether ignition is set in the "run" or "accessory" position
• That controls whether engine is running or not
Ignition switch
4 Small spring-loaded parts called detent plungers snap into the switch plate notches, securing the ignition setting selected by the turn of the key
Original plunger
0.42 in. (10.6 mm) long, overall
Actual size
0.23 in. (5.9 mm)
Redesigned plunger
0.48 in. (12.2 mm) long, overall
Actual size
0.29 in. (7 mm)
5 • Springs push the plungers into the notches, but the original design had a shorter spring, producing less tension
• The weight of a heavy key ring could push a plunger out of place; ignition setting could change from run to accessory
• This would cut off the engine, power brakes and airbag systems
Changing a part without changing its number
• In 2006, GM redesigned the detent plunger but did not identify it under a new part number
• Toyota has admitted to redesigning an accelerator pedal but also choosing not to give it a new number
• Industry experts suggest the automakers may be using this strategy to limit awareness of problems with parts in vehicles already on the road
Source: General Motors, McSwain Engineering Inc., Detroit Free Press, International Business Times, National Highway Traffic Safety Association, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

High fees eroding many 401(k) retirement accounts

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's the silent enemy in our retirement accounts: High fees.

And now a new study finds that the typical 401(k) fees—adding up to a modest-sounding 1 percent a year—would erase $70,000 from an average worker's account over a four-decade career compared with lower-cost options. To compensate for the higher fees, someone would have to work an extra three years before retiring.

The study comes from the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank. Its analysis, backed by industry and government data, suggests that U.S. workers, already struggling to save enough for retirement, are being further held back by fund costs.

"The corrosive effect of high fees in many of these retirement accounts forces many Americans to work years longer than necessary or than planned," the report, being released Friday, concludes.

Most savers have only a vague idea how much they're paying in 401(k) fees or what alternatives exist, though the information is provided in often dense and complex fund statements. High fees seldom lead to high returns. And critics say they hurt ordinary investors—much more so than, say, Wall Street's high-speed trading systems, which benefit pros and have increasingly drawn the eye of regulators.

Consider what would happen to a 25-year-old worker, earning the U.S. median income of $30,500, who puts 5 percent of his or her pay in a 401(k) account and whose employer chips in another 5 percent:

■ If the plan charged 0.25 percent in annual fees, a widely available low-cost option, and the investment return averaged 6.8 percent a year, the account would equal $476,745 when the worker turned 67 (the age he or she could retire with full Social Security benefits).

■ If the plan charged the typical 1 percent, the account would reach only $405,454—a $71,000 shortfall.

■ If the plan charged 1.3 percent—common for 401 (k) plans at small companies—the account would reach $380,649, a $96,000 shortfall. The worker would have to work four more years to make up the gap. (The analysis assumes the worker's pay rises 3.6 percent a year.)

The higher fees often accompany funds that try to beat market indexes by actively buying and selling securities. Index funds, which track benchmarks such as the Standard & Poor's 500, don't require active management and typically charge lower fees.

With stocks having hit record highs before being clobbered in recent days, many investors have been on edge over the market's ups and downs. But experts say timing the market is nearly impossible. By contrast, investors can increase their returns by limiting their funds' fees.

Most stock funds will match the performance of the entire market over time, so those with the lowest management costs will generate better returns, said Russel Kinnel, director of research for Morningstar.

"Fees are a crucial determinant of how well you do," Kinnel said.

Fliers' thoughts, from 'no fear' to 'it's scarier'

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The Indonesian mother of three had flown without her kids before, but this was the first time she gave her eldest a to-do list in case something happened on the flight she and her husband were taking.

"I never worried like this before what happened with the missing Malaysia Airlines plane," Yulveri, who like many Indonesians uses only a single name, said at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport.

At airports across Asia and around the world, Flight 370 and its 239 passengers and crew, now lost for more than a month, are topics of avid speculation and sometimes anxiety. Passengers typically remain confident about the safety of air travel, but some are distressed by the disappearance, which—given the number of people involved—is unprecedented in aviation industry.

"The mystery over the missing plane had created many confusing, even terrifying, theories every day," Yulveri said. "And the black-box must be found whenever and however, or it will become a black hole in the aviation world."

Before she and her husband, an air force officer, left for a week-long tour of Japan's Hokkaido island, she talked to her 15-year-old daughter and asked her to take care of her younger siblings.

"What are you talking about, Mom?" Yulveri quoted her daughter as saying. "You will come home. We all will be fine."

Nation

NTSB: Claim about truck fire still uncorroborated

RED BLUFF, Calif. (AP)—Federal investigators could not corroborate on Saturday a driver's claim that a FedEx tractor-trailer was already on fire when it careened across a freeway median, sideswiped her car and slammed into a bus carrying high school students, killing 10 people in a fiery wreck.

Investigators were still looking for more witnesses to Thursday's crash in Northern California, National Transportation Safety Board member Mark Rosekind said. They also plan to conduct tests to determine if the truck driver inhaled smoke before the collision and examine crash scene evidence for clues of a fire before the vehicles exploded into towering flames and billowing black smoke.

AP

The demolished remains of a FedEx truck is towed into a CalTrans maintenance station in Willows, Calif., Friday, April 11, 2014.

Investigators also found no signs that the truck driver attempted to brake before the crash. They said the truck left no tire marks after it veered off the southbound lanes of Interstate 5 and crashed into the bus taking the students to a tour of Humboldt State University. Five students, three adult chaperones and both drivers died. Rosekind said the bus driver had relieved another driver whose shift ended during a stop in Sacramento.

Joe and Bonnie Duran, the Seattle-area couple who were in the car, said, like the bus, they were heading north on Interstate 5 about 100 miles north of Sacramento on Thursday afternoon. Bonnie Duran, who was driving, told federal authorities and KNBC-TV in Los Angeles that flames were coming from the lower rear of the truck cab.

"I just looked to the left, and there it was coming through right at me at an angle. I can tell I wasn't going to outrun him, so I just kind of turned to the right and he hit me," she told the television station. "It was in flames as it came through the median. ... It wasn't like the whole thing was engulfed. It was coming up wrapping around him."

Initial reports by police made no mention of a fire before the crash. Officer Lacey Heitman, a spokeswoman for California Highway Patrol, said she could not confirm if Duran's account is accurate until all evidence was gathered.

Federal investigators also recovered an electronic control module from the bus, but do not know what information it contains. They were not able to recover such equipment from the FedEx truck tractor, a 2007 Volvo, but may be able to calculate speed and maneuvering using the transmission and marks in steering box. They are also investigating if the drivers were impaired.

A family member told the Sacramento Bee the truck driver was Tim Evans, 32, of Elk Grove, Calif.

But in addition to the cause of the crash, federal transportation authorities are examining whether fire safety measures they previously recommended for motor coaches could have allowed more of the 48 bus occupants to escape unharmed.

Bodies recovered from the bus were charred beyond recognition. Dozens of students had injuries including burns, and several remained hospitalized.

The 44 Southern California high school students on the bus in Thursday's crash, many hoping to become the first in their families to attend college, were on a free trip arranged by Humboldt State University. More than 500 students, including about 40 from the Los Angeles area, were sent home earlier than scheduled Saturday morning in light of tragedy.

Abortion in cases of rape: New rifts in old debate

NEW YORK (AP)—Poll after poll over many years has shown that Americans overwhelmingly support legal access to abortion for women impregnated by rape. Yet the issue remains divisive, as demonstrated by two current rifts—one involving U.S. aid policy overseas, the other highlighting strategy differences within the U.S. anti-abortion movement.

The National Right to Life Committee recently voted to cut ties with one of its most zealous state affiliates, Georgia Right to Life. The move, which angered many anti-abortion activists nationwide, came after the affiliate defied instructions to endorse an anti-abortion bill in Congress because it included exceptions for rape and incest.

Georgia Right to Life's president, Dan Becker, described the March 29 ouster as "a tragedy" but said his group would stick by its 14-year-old policy of consistently opposing exceptions for rape and incest. "GRTL will stand true to its mission and not be swayed by the prevailing political winds," Becker said.

David O'Steen, executive director of National Right to Life, said his group and Becker's share a long-term goal of eliminating abortion. But short-term, he said, the national group is willing to support legislation that reduces the number of abortions, even if they have rape and incest exceptions.

Meanwhile, a loose coalition of abortion-rights and women's-rights activists is growing increasingly frustrated with President Barack Obama's administration. Despite years of lobbying, the activists have failed to persuade Obama to issue an executive order stipulating that U.S. foreign aid—though prohibited by Congress from subsidizing abortions as a method of family planning—could be used to provide abortions for women raped in wars.

The New York-based Global Justice Center, leading the push for an executive order, says many thousands of woman have been impregnated by rapists during recent conflicts in Rwanda, Bosnia, Congo, Syria and elsewhere, and yet most major international humanitarian organization balk at offering abortions for fear of jeopardizing their U.S. funding.

"Since the U.S. is the largest humanitarian aid donor, its abortion ban has become the de facto policy in most war zones where rape is used as a weapon of war," said the center's legal director, Akila Radhakrishnan.

Asked about the issue, the White House press office referred The Associated Press to the National Security Council, which advises the president on foreign policy matters. Two days later, the NSC said it was declining to comment.

A year after bombing, Boston and its people heal

BOSTON (AP)—Every time Roseann Sdoia comes home, she must climb 18 steps—six stairs into the building, 12 more to her apartment. It is an old building in Boston's North End, with doors that are big and heavy, not an easy place for an amputee to live.

When she left the hospital, a month after the Boston marathon bombing, she had a choice: She could find another place to live, one more suitable for someone who wears a prosthetic that replaces most of her right leg. Or, she could stay.

"Early on when all this happened, so many people were telling me to move out of the city and move out of my apartment because of the stairs and I don't have an elevator and parking is not very convenient," she recalls. "But I have been able to get past all of that."

In that, she mirrors Boston itself.

"I have to tell you, honestly, Boston is a better city now than it was before," says Thomas Menino, Boston's former mayor. "People learned how to deal with each other, they had to deal with a tragedy."

Not that it's been easy. Three people were killed at last year's Boston Marathon, and more than 260 were injured, and the legacy of trauma and lost limbs remains— as does the shock of having endured a terrorist attack on Marathon Monday. Nor can Bostonians forget the fear that gripped a city locked down in the midst of a manhunt.

But Boston has been able to get past all of that. Copley Square is no longer littered with impromptu tributes to the dead and injured; they're now on display in an exhibit at the Boston Public Library, where Robert White of Lynn saw meaning in every teddy bear and pair of sneakers: "Every last one of the items says `Boston Strong' or `I will return next year.'"

Roseann Sdoia is 46 years old, a vice president of property management for a Boston development company. She is a cheerful woman; she smiles broadly when she arrives at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown for physical therapy.

"It's just my nature," she says. "I'm not a negative person. I'm not a Debbie Downer."

ACROSS THE NATION

4.9-magnitude earthquake rattles central Idaho

CHALLIS, Idaho (AP)—A 4.9-magnitude earthquake shook central Idaho, flinging items off walls and scaring residents but otherwise producing no reported damage or injuries in the sparsely populated mountain area. USGS geophysicist Dale Grant says the earthquake was "kind of an unusual occurrence" being the first one of its strength in the area since 2005. But he said even minor damage is unlikely because of the remote location. It struck 8 miles northwest of Challis, a town of around 1,000 less than 200 miles northeast of Boise. Custer County sheriff's dispatcher Liz Preston says besides "things falling off walls and a lot of scared people," no one was hurt. She says the area has had some quakes lately, but this one felt "pretty big" compared with the others.

Feds release cows gathered in Nevada roundup

Federal land managers confirmed Saturday that they released all 400 or so head of cattle rounded up on public land in southern Nevada from a rancher who has refused to recognize their authority. The Bureau of Land Management took the action after hundreds of states' rights protesters, including militia members, showed up at corrals outside Mesquite to demand the animals' return to rancher Cliven Bundy. The bureau issued a brief statement saying the cattle were released "due to escalating tensions." Some protesters were armed with handguns and rifles at the corrals and at an earlier nearby rally. ***(AP)***

Asia

Long hunt for missing jet looms as pings go silent

PERTH, Australia (AP)—After a week of optimism over four underwater signals believed to be coming from the missing Malaysian plane, the sea has gone quiet and Australia's leader is warning that the massive search will likely be long.

No new electronic pings have been heard since April 8, and the batteries powering the locator beacons on the jet's black box recorders may already be dead. They only last about a month, and that window has already passed. Once officials are confident no more sounds will be heard, a robotic submersible will be sent down to slowly scour for wreckage across a vast area in extremely deep water.

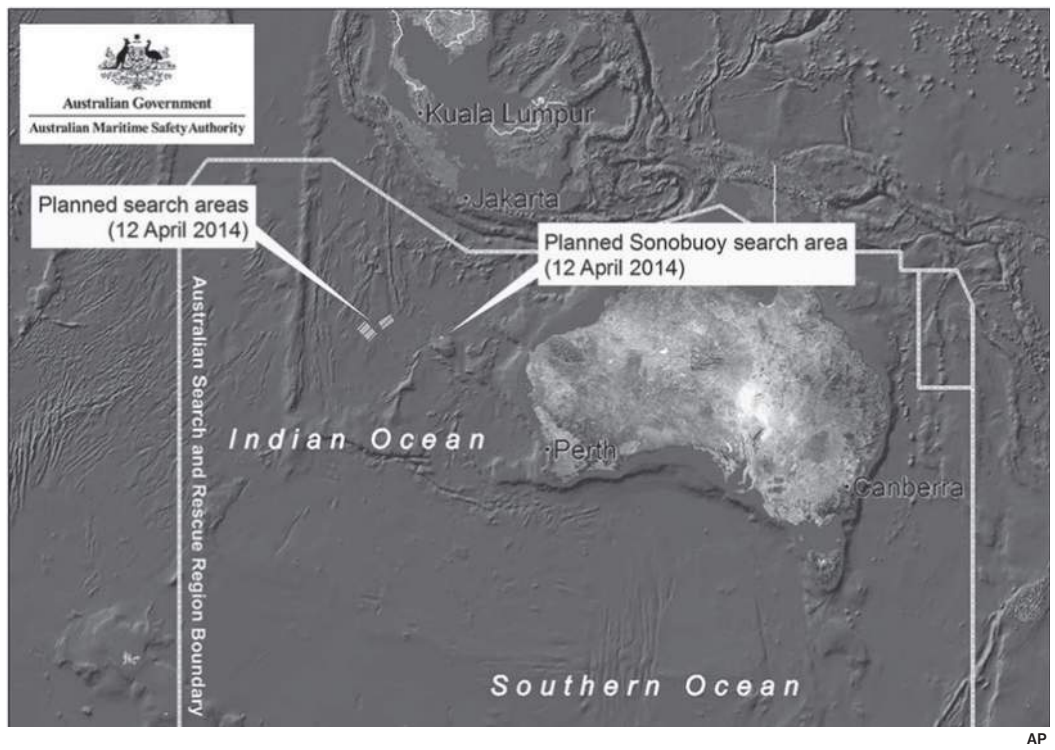
"No one should underestimate the difficulties of the task still ahead of us," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said in Beijing on Saturday, the last day of his China trip.

Abbott appeared to couch his comments from a day earlier, when he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping to brief him on the search for the Malaysia Airlines flight, which was carrying 239 people - most of them Chinese - when it disappeared March 8 en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Beijing.

After analyzing satellite data, officials believe the plane flew off course for an unknown reason and went down in the southern Indian Ocean off Australia's west coast.

Abbott expressed confidence that the signals heard by an Australian ship, which is towing a U.S. Navy device that listens for flight recorder pings, were coming from the missing Boeing 777's black boxes. But he said the fading batteries were making the job much harder. Recovering the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders is essential for investigators to try to piece together what happened to Flight 370.

"There's still a lot more work to be done and I don't want anyone to think that we are certain of success, or that success, should it come, is going to happen in the next week or even month. There's a lot of difficulty and a lot of uncertainty left in this," he said.



AP

In this map provided on Saturday, April 12, 2014, by the Joint Agency Coordination Centre, details are presented in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in the southern Indian Ocean.

In Malaysia, Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein on Saturday refuted a front-page report in a local newspaper, the New Strait Times, that a signal from the mobile phone of co-pilot Fariq Abdul Hamid was picked up by a telecommunications tower near the Malaysian city of Penang shortly before the plane disappeared from radar. The newspaper report said the signal ended abruptly before contact was established.

Hishammuddin, who is also the acting transport minister, told the Malaysian national news agency Bernama that he should have been aware of the phone call earlier, but that wasn't the case.

"I cannot comment (on the newspaper report) because if it is true, we would have known about it much earlier," Hishammuddin said after praying at a mosque in southern Jofor state, according to Bernama.

He added that it was irresponsible for anyone to take the opportunity to make "baseless" reports.

Four sounds heard April 5 and April 8 by the Australian ship Ocean Shield, which was towing the ping locator, were determined to be consistent with signals emitted from the two black boxes.

"Given that the signal from the black box is rapidly fading, what we are now doing is trying to get as many detections as we can so that we can narrow the search area down to as small an area as possible," Abbott said.

The underwater search zone is currently a 1,300-square-kilometer (500-square-mile) patch of the seabed, about the size of Los Angeles.

The searchers want to pinpoint the exact location of the source of the sounds - or as close as they can get - before sending the sub down. It will not be deployed until officials are confident that no other electronic signals are present.

Waiting for water: Myanmar villages left behind

DALA, Myanmar (AP)—Every afternoon, the long lines start to form, hundreds of men, women and children waiting to dip their plastic buckets into the lotus-filled reservoir just outside Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon. It's their only source of clean drinking water, they say, and during the dry season, April and May, there is only so much to go around.

"It wasn't always this way," says 72-year-old Tin Shwe, one of the village elders, as he looks at the queue, some boys as young as 8 waiting their turn, yokes at their side. "It used to be only paddy fields. Only a few houses. There was enough water for all of us."

Myanmar only recently emerged from a half-century of military rule. Nascent democratic reforms implemented by the new civilian government since 2011 have resulted in a development boom, with the World Bank and others pouring billions of dollars into the country of 60 million as it starts to open up to the world. But so far, it is the big cities that are seeing the benefits.

Even places like Dala township—just a 20-minute boat ride from Yangon - have so far been left out. Authorities tell residents that maybe next year the government will start installing pipes so that water can be delivered straight to their homes.

The water shortages began with a population boom in the 1980s, with the number of inhabitants jumping from a few dozen to more than a thousand in part because they wanted to be close to the big city.

With no restrictions on how much water each family could take, the natural, fresh-water pond started running low. Eventually, just a decade ago, it dried up entirely. With no offers of help from the government, men like Tin Shwe decided to step in, devising a rationing system as water started seeping back so that residents could rely on it year-round.

Villagers have only one hour—between 4 p.m. to 5 p.m—to get their water during dry season to limit its use. They are charged a tiny sum-10 kyat for each bucket, or 10 U.S. cents. With so many takers it's enough money for small upkeeps, like fixing the fence that surrounds the reservoir or stringing up electricity for lights.

People walk for up to five kilometers (three miles) with their empty buckets. They are allowed to fill up two each. If they need more, they can get back in line. When they are ready they begin the long, hard trek home.

"I usually get three buckets," said 19-year-old Aye Thu Zar as she neared the front of the line. "There are seven in my family, so that's enough for drinking and cooking. But the walk home hurts my shoulders. My legs, too. I can barely sleep at night the pain is so bad."

She and others hope the new Myanmar will eventually reach Dala.

But for now, says Ko Ko, one of the villagers waiting his turn, "we are like water shortage refugees."

PH: Invite all SE Asia to Pacific pact

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S.-backed Pacific free trade pact could cause resentment in Southeast Asia as it would leave some nations in the region better positioned to access America's market than others, a top Philippine official said Thursday.

Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima proposed inviting all 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, even if most of them can't for now meet the conditions for joining.

He said that would demonstrate a clear pathway for entering the pact, without lowering standards.

ASEAN is itself striving to reduce trade barriers among its members, but only four of them are in TPP. They are Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. Those outside TPP are Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand.

"If there's a lag between the joining of the others in a high-quality agreement such as TPP, there can be resentment especially as we continue to integrate," Purisima told the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

He said countries like the Philippines would be at a major handicap for products where they compete for the U.S. market with the four other countries.

But he said this would incentivize reforms. The Philippines would have little choice but to make constitutional or legislative changes needed for coming into TPP if exclusion from the pact was hurting businesses and jobs, he said.

Twelve nations, including the U.S. and Japan, that account for about 40 percent of the global economy are negotiating TPP. It is intended to cut tariffs, ease regulatory barriers, protect intellectual property, and set labor and environmental standards.

The pact is a key pillar of President Barack Obama's effort to deepen U.S. engagement in Asia.

Obama will be looking to demonstrate his administration's commitment to the region when he visits the Philippines and three other Asian nations this month.

The deadline for completing TPP keeps slipping and finalizing it still appears far off. There is political opposition in the U.S. among many of Obama's fellow Democrats, and the U.S. and Japanese negotiators are also struggling to narrow differences.

Purisima voiced preference for the more "inclusive" approach of a planned trade pact between ASEAN, China and four other nations. Members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership can drop trade policies with which they disagree and exclude sensitive industries from competition.

It is widely seen a rival pact to TPP, which does not include China.

ASIAN BRIEFS

15 injured in northeast China train derailment

BEIJING (AP)—A total of 15 people were hospitalized after a train derailed in northeast China early Sunday, officials said. The railway bureau in Heilongjiang province's regional capital of Harbin said on its official microblog that the cause of the pre-dawn accident was under investigation. It said bureau officials responded to the accident, accompanied by police and fire and rescue services. China has one of the world's most extensive networks of railways, but accidents are extremely rare. The Harbin railway bureau said the train was an older model, rather than one of the high-speed trains that have been brought into service in recent years. China's most serious recent railway disaster involved a pair of high-speed trains that collided near the eastern city of Wenzhou in 2011, killing 40 people.

Pakistan judge dismisses 9-month-old's murder case

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani judge dismissed an attempted murder charge Saturday that police lodged against a 9-month-old boy, ending a bizarre case that drew new criticism to the country's troubled criminal justice system. The family of toddler Mohammad Musa had kept the boy in hiding after authorities pressed charges accusing him of trying to kill police officers after a neighborhood brawl in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore. Judge Rafaqat Ali Qamar dropped the case against the boy during a hearing in which police announced they would no longer pursue the charges, defense lawyer Irfan Tarar said. "The father of toddler produced him before the judge today," Tarar said. "The boy was in the arms of his father when police submitted a report, stating they have dropped the charge against the boy."

World

Uniformed men occupy Donetsk police HQ

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Men in the uniforms of Ukraine's now-defunct riot police on Saturday occupied police headquarters in Donetsk, the eastern city that is one of the flashpoints of a wave of pro-Russia protests, hours after armed men seized local police headquarters and a local branch of the Security Service in a nearby city.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov described the unrest as "Russian aggression" and said Ukraine's security officials would be gathering for an extraordinary meeting late Saturday evening.

In a phone call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry "expressed strong concern" that the attacks "were orchestrated and synchronized, similar to previous attacks in eastern Ukraine and Crimea," according the State Department. Kerry "made clear that if Russia did not take steps to de-escalate in eastern Ukraine and move its troops back from Ukraine's border, there would be additional consequences," the department said.

The Russian news agency Itar-Tass, citing the Russia's Foreign Ministry, said Kerry "could not give any concrete facts" to support his allegations. The news agency said Lavrov told Kerry that the crisis in Ukraine was due to the failure of the Ukrainian government "to take into account the legitimate needs and interests of the Russian and Russian-speaking population."

The unrest in Donetsk and the city of Slovyansk, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) to the north, were the latest shows of spiraling anger in eastern Ukraine, which has a large Russian-speaking population and was also the support base for Viktor Yanukovych, the Ukrainian president who was ousted in February after months of protests in the capital, Kiev. Ethnic Russians in Ukraine's east widely fear that the authorities who took over after Yanukovych's fall will suppress them.

In Slovyansk, the mayor said the men who seized the police station were demanding a referendum on autonomy and possible annexation by Russia. Protesters in other eastern cities have made similar demands after a referendum in Crimea last month in which voters opted to split off from Ukraine, leading to annexation by Russia.

Witnesses said the men who entered the police building in Donetsk were wearing the uniforms of the Berkut, the feared riot police squad that was disbanded in February after Yanukovych's ouster. Berkut officers' violent dispersal of a demonstration in Kiev in November set off vast protests in the capital that culminated in bloodshed in February when more than 100 people died in sniper fire; the acting government says the snipers were police.

AP

Pro-Russian activists occupy the regional police office in Donetsk, Ukraine, Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Peru state a violent 'mini-dictatorship'

CHIMBOTE, Peru (AP)—One by one, the senior officials from the capital took the microphone and apologized to an auditorium packed with angry people who had long been living in fear. The officials admitted they had failed to prevent a political murder foretold by its victim. Their integrity was in doubt.

Peru's chief prosecutor, comptroller and the head of Congress' investigations committee, which was now holding a public hearing, had all ignored evidence that Ezequiel Nolasco, now murdered, had thrust in their faces for months.

Having survived a 2010 assassination attempt after he denounced government corruption, Nolasco had repeatedly warned that his home state, Ancash, was run by a criminal syndicate that plundered the treasury, killed people it couldn't buy or intimidate, wiretapped foes and used police as spies and journalists as character assassins.

A lone gunman finished the job on March 14, pumping five bullets into the former construction union leader when he stopped for a beer heading from Lima to this coastal city that is home to nearly half of Ancash's 1.1 million people.

Ancash was living under the ironclad rule of a governor locals compared to U.S. mob legend Al Capone, his political machine allegedly greased by tens of millions in annual mining revenues that had made Ancash Peru's richest state.

"It's a mini-dictatorship," said Christian Salas, the public prosecutor dispatched from Lima to clean things up. He asked to have Gov. Cesar Alvarez jailed while more than 100 corruption cases involving his administration are revived, adding that the local prosecutors' office and courts were "taken over by criminals."

On Friday, a local judge barred Alvarez, his top press aide and four journalists from leaving the country for four months while they are investigated for conspiracy and embezzlement.

Corruption-impregnated personal fiefdoms aren't rare in Latin American democracies, but political scientists say Ancash is extraordinary in its sheer scope and brutality.

"This guy went too far," said Edward Gibson, a Northwestern University professor who calls the phenomenon "subnational authoritarianism."

Poison gas claims complicate Syrian civil war

BEIRUT (AP)—Both sides in Syria's bloody civil war said Saturday that a rural village fell victim to a poison gas attack, an assault that reportedly injured scores of people amid an ongoing international effort to rid the country of chemical weapons.

What exactly happened Friday in Kfar Zeita, a rebel-held village in Hama province some 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Damascus, remains unclear and likely won't be known for some time. It took United Nations weapons inspectors months to say it was likely some chemical weapons attacks happened last year, including an August attack that killed hundreds and nearly sparked Western airstrikes against President Bashar Assad's forces.

But online videos posted by rebel activists from Kfar Zeita echoed earlier images that sparked a world outcry, showing pale-faced men, women and children gasping for breath at a field hospital. They suggest an affliction by some kind of poison— and yet another clouded incident where both sides blame each other in a conflict that activists say has killed more than 150,000 people with no end in sight.

The main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, said the poison gas attack hurt dozens of people, though it did not identify the gas used.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group that relies on a network of on-the-ground volunteers, said the gas attack happened during air raids that left heavy smoke over the area. It reported that people suffered from suffocation and breathing problems after the attack, but gave no further details.

State-run Syrian television blamed members of the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front rebel group for the attack, saying they used chlorine gas to kill two people and injure more than 100. It did not say how it confirmed chlorine was used.

Chlorine, one of the most commonly manufactured chemicals in the U.S., is used to purify drinking water. But as a gas, it can be deadly, with the German army using it in warfare in World War I. The Geneva Protocol of 1925, which Syria signed, banned its use in battle.

The TV report also claimed the Nusra Front is preparing for another chemical attack against the Wadi Deif area in the northern province of Idlib, as well as another area in Hama. The government station did not explain how it knew the Nusra Front's plans.

Activists in the village could not be reached Saturday.

An activist from Hama who is currently in Turkey and is in contact with residents told The Associated Press that the attack occurred around sunset Friday. The man, who goes with the name Amir al-Basha, said the air raids on the rebel-held village came as nearby areas including Morek and Khan Sheikhoun have witnessed intense clashes between troops and opposition fighters.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran rejects naming new UN envoy after US refusal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran rejected naming a new diplomat Saturday to represent it at the United Nations, with one lawmaker urging the Islamic Republic to stand up to "bullying" from the U.S., which has rejected granting its pick a visa. The standoff over Hamid Aboutalebi, a member of the group responsible for the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, comes as world powers negotiate with Iran over its contested nuclear program. It also threatens to stir fresh animosity between countries that recently have seen their relations thaw. The Obama administration said Friday that the U.S. had informed Iran it would not grant a visa to Aboutalebi, suggesting that behind-the-scenes discussions to get them to withdraw him from consideration failed. On Saturday, Iranian state television anchors discussed the U.S. reject, with a crawl at the bottom of the screen reading: "The Foreign Ministry says Aboutalebi is Iran's only choice as its U.N. envoy."

Forest fire destroys 150 homes in Chilean city

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Authorities say a large forest fire that is covering the Chilean city of Valparaiso in smoke has destroyed at least 150 homes and is forcing evacuations. President Michelle Bachelet has declared the port city a catastrophe zone, which puts the Armed Forces in charge of maintaining order and evacuating thousands of people affected by the smoke and flames. Valparaiso Mayor Jorge Castro told Chile's National Television that while there have been no deaths or serious injuries, some people are being choked by the smoke. He said refuges for those forced to flee the fire have been set up. Castro said Saturday night that "Valparaiso is without electricity at the moment and this means the flame column is creating a Dante-esque panorama and is advancing in an apparently uncontrollable manner."

Health & Fitness

Noses, made in Britain: UK touts lab-grown organs

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

AP

Dr Michelle Griffin, a plastic research fellow, poses for photographs with a synthetic polymer ear at her research facility in the Royal Free Hospital in London, Monday, March 31, 2014.

LONDON (AP)—In a north London hospital, scientists are growing noses, ears and blood vessels in a bold attempt to make body parts in the laboratory.

It's far from the only lab in the world that is pursuing the futuristic idea of growing organs for transplant. But the London work was showcased Tuesday as Mayor Boris Johnson announced a plan to attract more labs to do cutting-edge health and science research in the area.

While only a handful of patients have received the British lab-made organs so far- including tear ducts, blood vessels and windpipes— researchers hope they will soon be able to transplant more types of body parts into patients, including what would be the world's first nose made partly from stem cells.

"It's like making a cake," said Alexander Seifalian at University College London, the scientist leading the effort. "We just use a different kind of oven."

British authorities have invested nearly 4 million pounds ($6.7 million) in the plan to stimulate research in the London-Oxford-Cambridge area. It aims to attract companies to the area to foster collaboration and promote research and manufacturing. A major center for biological research will open in London next year.

University College London is a partner in the campaign. During a recent visit to his lab there, Seifalian showed off a sophisticated machine used to make molds from a polymer material for various organs.

Last year, he and his team used that material to mold a nose for a British man who lost his to cancer. Then they added a salt and sugar solution to the mold to mimic the somewhat sponge-like texture of a natural nose. Stem cells were taken from the patient's fat and grown in the lab for two weeks before being used to cover the nose scaffold. Later, the nose was implanted into the man's forearm so that skin would grow to cover it.

Seifalian said he and his team are waiting for approval from regulatory authorities to transfer the nose onto the patient's face but couldn't say when that might happen.

The polymer material Seifalian uses for his organ scaffolds has been patented and he's also applied for patents for their blood vessels, tear ducts and windpipes. He and his team are creating other organs including coronary arteries and ears. Later this year, a trial is scheduled to start in India and London to test lab-made ears for people born without them.

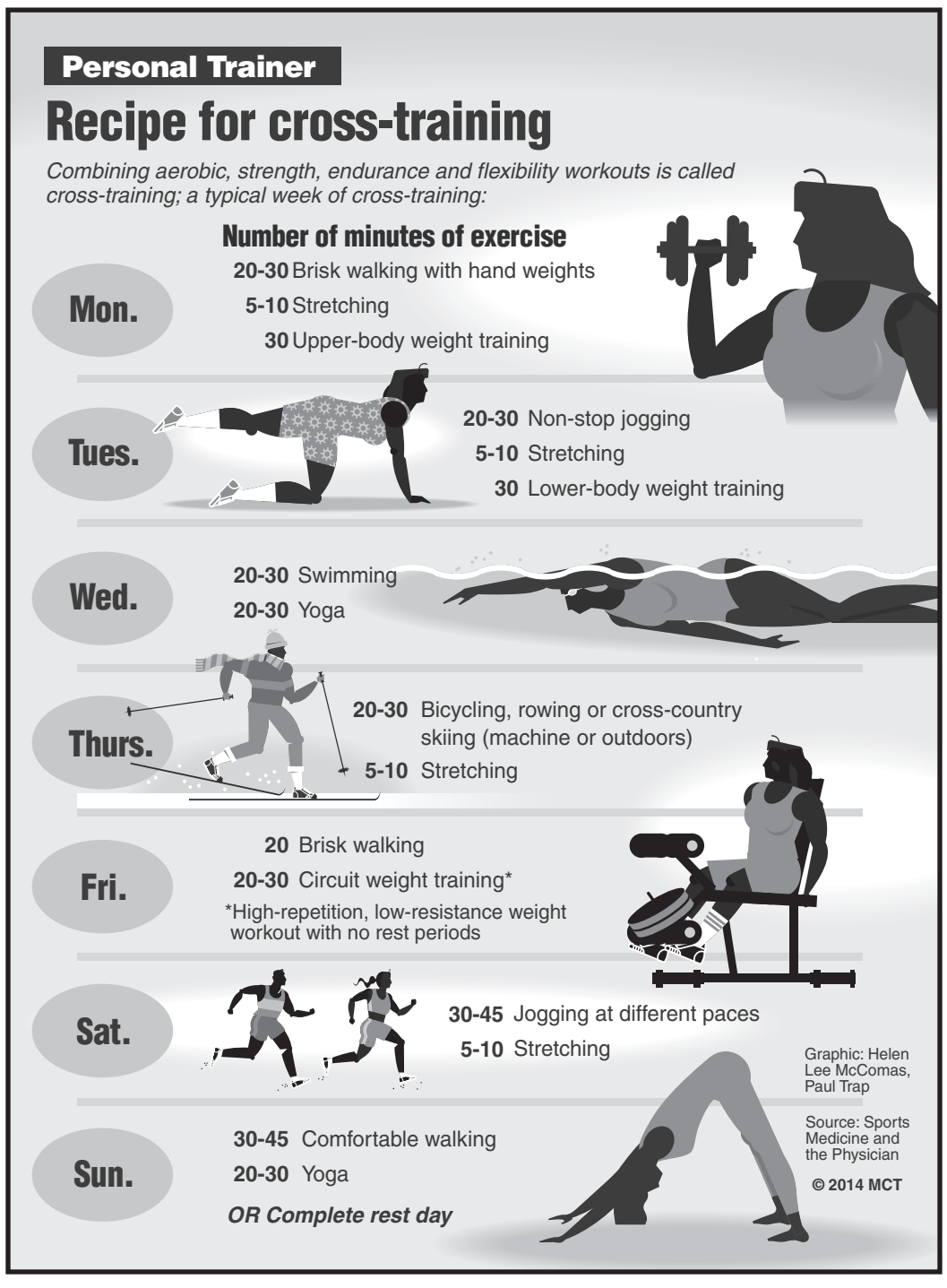
"Ears are harder to make than noses because you have to get all the contours right and the skin is pulled tight so you see its entire structure," said Dr. Michelle Griffin, a plastic surgeon who has made dozens of ears and noses in Seifalian's lab.

"At the moment, children who need new ears have to go through a really invasive procedure involving taking cartilage from their ribs," Griffin said. She added they plan to eventually create an entirely synthetic face but must first prove their polymer scaffolds won't accidentally burst out of the skin.

"Scientists have to get things like noses and ears right before we can move onto something like a kidney, lungs or a liver, which is much more complicated," said Eileen Gentleman, a stem cell expert at King's College London, who is not involved in Seifalian's research. "What (Seifalian) has created is the correct structure and the fact that it's good enough for his patients to have a functional (windpipe), tear duct, etc. is pretty amazing," she said.

Some scientists predicted certain lab-made organs will soon cease to be experimental.

"I'm convinced engineered organs are going to be on the market soon," said Suchitra Sumitran-Holgersson, a professor of transplantation biology at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.



Researchers using math to whittle away at jet lag

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lots of apps claim they can help you fight jet lag. Now Michigan researchers say mathematical formulas suggest it's possible to adjust to new time zones a bit faster than previously thought, and they created their own free app to help.

Doctors have long said exposure to light is key. But how much, and when?

"If you get light in the wrong time or wrong way, it'll send you the wrong direction," said University of Michigan math professor Daniel Forger, who led the research published Thursday.

A master biological clock, called a circadian rhythm, regulates when we become sleepy and when we're more alert. Travel across time zones and the body clock has to reset itself.

Light is that clock's strongest regulator. In a study partly funded by the Air Force, the Michigan team used two equations proven to predict someone's circadian rhythm, and with computer modeling calculated different schedules of light exposure for more than 1,000 possible trips.

It's possible to customize a block of time each day when you should be in light, the brighter the better, and another when you should avoid it, Forger's team reported in the journal PLoS Computational Biology. (It didn't address other potential remedies such as melatonin.)

An example: Fly from Detroit to London, five hours ahead, arriving at 11 a.m. London time. Generally, it's thought to take a day per time zone to fully adjust. But the study suggests a three-day adjustment schedule, if you can stick with it: On the day after arrival, get light from 7:40 a.m. to 9 p.m.; from 6:20 a.m. to 7:40 p.m. on Day 2; and from 5 a.m. until 7:20 p.m. on Day 3.

A free iPhone app named Entrain does the calculations. Stay indoors, or stay up later, and it adjusts the advice.

The app hasn't been tested with travelers to see whether it really helps more than general advice, such as to seek morning light when traveling eastward. But after using it, travelers will be given a choice of submitting their data to a University of Michigan study.

"Before we really believe it, it has to go through testing," cautioned sleep-medicine specialist Dr. Steven Altchuler, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, who wasn't involved in the project. But "there's very little risk of harm if someone wants to try these things."

Most people adjust fine with general advice, but adjusting faster may be more important if travelers must be at their best for, say, sports competitions or a business negotiation, Altchuler added.

"I think it makes sense," said Dr. Charles Bae of the Cleveland Clinic's sleep disorder center. "Anything you could do to optimize your adjustment is welcome, without medications."

Life & Style

A monthlong celebration of poetry

April is National Poetry Month, a monthlong, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States. To mark the occasion, Tinian English teacher Joseph Connolly submitted the following poems for publication:

Basho, Beckett, Domino, Dylan, and CNMI BOE chair H.G.

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I don't usually dedicate my poems. However back in August 2012 I had dedicated one of these 'B' sonnets, "Basiphobia - Fear of Walking," to Fats Domino, Bob Dylan, and Samuel Beckett. While I was writing it I thought of Dylan and Domino's many songs which mention walking. Domino with *I'm Walkin, I'm Walking to New Orleans, I Want to Walk You Home* (covered by Paul McCartney), among many others. Dylan has had songs about walking down roads feeling bad, walking on streets that are wet, walkin' down highways with answers that are still "blowin' in the wind" from his early days 50 years ago to the present. Nobel Prize winner Samuel Beckett portrays many of his characters as caught in an existential malaise and fear so heavy that they can barely move, let alone walk.

Famous Japanese haikuist Basho was a no-brainer for "Batrachphobia - Fear of Frogs" because of his haiku about a frog jumping into a pond. SPLOOSH! [Note to readers: "Boudin King" alluded to in Batrachphobia is a delicious fast food drive-in restaurant in Southwest Louisiana. It is run by none other than Alex Cormier, the Boudin King. Boudin is pig intestines mixed with rice and spice and stuffed into a natural casing, black boudin is when they mix fresh pig blood in with it. The frog leg (boneless and deep fried) po-boys are served "dressed" just like a submarine sandwich with lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise in a small delicious loaf of crusty French bread. Mannge'.]

Last week my first period English class students went to the TJSHS library and watched a live transmission from Saipan of CNMI BOE chair Herman Guerrero declaring April National Library Month. I knew then I had a dedication for "Bibliophobia - Fear of Books." Now if we could only get a librarian and some computers for our Tinian Jr./Sr. High School library. Pa'gu taya'. (in Chamorro, "Now nothing".)

BASIPHOBIA - FEAR OF WALKING

**dedicated to Fats Domino, Bob Dylan and Samuel Beckett*

Think I had it before I could crawl
Know I had it before I started talking
Definitely felt it in the bedroom and hall
A basic fear of getting up and walking
How long will it be before my next or final fall
Unknown bystanders, some seated, all gawking
Basiphobia when I was short, and now when I'm tall
Fear? I'm the victim, Fear's doing the stalking
Lately, slowly, cautiously, and step by step by step
I've been able to actually, fearlessly, stand right up
Begin ambulatory movement with a lot more pep
Now it's time to get walking and strike the band up
I have taken a stand and made a brave Beckettian decision
To try and make more movement from an upright position

BATRACHPHOBIA - FEAR OF FROGS

**dedicated to Matsuo Basho*

They're so big! They look like jack rabbits hopping
making loud noisy sounds as they splash in the pond
It seems this time of year there is no stopping
Someone must have used a wizard's magic wand

Incessant, abhorrent, cacophonous frog croaking
accompany Froggy when he takes his nightly ride
across folk songs with his sword and pistol smoking
as he jumps out of the well to Miss Mousie's side

Drive to Boudin King and get a dressed frog leg po-boy
Enjoy hot peppers and frog legs at a Chinese buffet
Begone Batrachphobia! Be like frogs and Jump for Joy!
Deplore, ignore, out the door with what old witches say

For a fearless, lovely, international, literary smasho
Read the famous frog haiku written by Matsuo Basho

BIBLIOPHOBIA - FEAR OF BOOKS

**dedicated to CNMI BOE chair Herman Guerrero*

Time to open up a book; turn over a brand new leaf
Read classic melodrama, some plays to put on stage
Nose in a book? No worries, time is a temporary thief
Look at great photographs printed on a book's page

Fear not the smell in new and old books your finding
Let go of your fears, give in to knowledge lust
Check out the construction of an old book binding
Banning Bibliophobia is beneficial and a must

Find a library that still puts newspapers on a spindle
Assess your town or city's book store situation
You may not find the book you want on Kindle
Or on otherwise electronically stored information

Go in a bookstore or library; search all the crannies and nooks
Bring home some fiction and non - new, used, and old books

'Lighten up!'

By JOSEPH B. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Readers will have noted by now there is some humor in my poetry. I like to follow former American poet laureate Billy Collin's advice to poets, "Lighten up." Billy, by the way, is not a member of the Dead Poet's Society yet so check him out. Here are three short poems with questions posed and humor in mind. One spins off Hamlet's famous soliloquy, "To be or not to be." A second poem wonders about life after 50 without all the physical steps and tricks people take to look younger. The third poem uses a line from a Rolling Stones song, "Who wants yesterday's girl?" Well, I for one do. The crow's feet around my wife's eyes and her beautiful graying white hair are fine with me.

TO LAUGH OR NOT TO LAUGH ?

to laugh or not to laugh - that is the question
whether or not to cry is a completely different one
to chuckle, to chortle, perchance to giggle quicker
when smiling suggests the start of a snicker
to hail wholeheartedly wholesome hilarity
with steadfast and unsolemn insincerity
to guffaw, no hem and haw but hee haw
wild uproar, spirits soar, no boring flaw
to laugh and laugh again that is the answer
willingness to do so can cure crying cancer

WHAT'S LEFT?

no tattoos, no elevator shoes
no beer gut or battle with the booze
no body piercing in eye, ear, nose, throat, or anywhere
no permanent, dyed hair, butt bigger, new sizes everywhere
no tucks, liposuction or rubber implants
no thrashing in the mosh pit or limbo dance
no botox shots and no false teeth
no wire uplifts from underneath
no eyebrow plucks or ear hair mows
no way to stop the dry skin above my nose
no things seem right,what seems to be left
no one need imagine over fifty and bereft

WHO WANTS YESTERDAY'S GIRL?

I love your gray hair and all your new fat
I love your warm breath smelling slightly of rat
I love your black wig and what's underneath
I love your new bridge and other false teeth
I love you when you have a cold
and give a big kitchen sneeze
I love your cold baloney sandwiches
and your macaroni and cheese
I love all your kitty cats and the wet rug smell
I love you to heaven and back down to hell

President Obama attends 'A Raisin in the Sun'

By MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Tickets to watch Denzel Washington on Broadway in "A Raisin in the Sun" are hard to come by, but one man managed it—President Barack Obama.

The president and first lady caught the American masterpiece Friday night at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, where it first opened more than 50 years ago.

The only recognition from the cast of their special guests was when Washington tipped his cap in their direction at the curtain call, which was already a standing ovation. The president and his wife went backstage to greet the actors at intermission.

"I'm so glad. I'm so happy that he came to see the show," said 13-year-old Bryce Clyde Jenkins, who is making his Broadway debut. "It means so much to me that the president took time out from whatever he was doing to come see a show like ours."

The Obamas took their orchestra section seats to huge applause that was repeated when they left, shaking hands as they went up and down the aisle. The president wore a suit and the first lady wore a sparkly black top and a chic black leather jacket.

AP

In this April 3, 2014 file photo shows Anika Noni Rose, from left, LaTanya Richardson, Denzel Washington and Sophie Okonedo at the curtain call for the opening night of "A Raisin In The Sun" in New York.

There was a 20-minute delay in the beginning of the show when an alarm flooded the theater with a piercing sound. A huge ovation greeted its end. Though asked to put away cellphones, virtually every audience-member whipped them out to take flash shots of the Obamas, lighting up the darkened theater.

Lorraine Hansberry's play, set in 1950s Chicago, centers on a struggling working-class black family anxiously awaiting a $10,000 insurance check and the ensuing squabbles over how to spend it. It may touch a chord with Obama, who calls Chicago home and who has a parent from Africa, a strong theme in the play.

Stephen McKinley Henderson, who only appears in the second act, shook the president's hand at intermission and was floored by the power of the moment. Michelle Obama, who clearly knew the play, recognized Henderson's character and asked him if he'd be on stage soon, then gave him a hug. "I'll never be the same!" Henderson said.

Besides Washington, Jenkins and Henderson, the cast includes LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Sophie Okonedo, Anika Noni Rose, Sean Patrick Thomas and David Cromer. The director is Kenny Leon.

"I just can't believe it," said Thomas, who said he and British actress Okonedo compared it to performing for the queen. "I'll tell my daughter, I'll tell my son, the night I performed for the president. I'll tell them, `If you do your homework and do what you're supposed to do, you can, too.'"

The Obamas have been big boosters of Broadway during his presidency. Michelle Obama and daughters Sasha and Malia have attended performances of "Memphis," "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," "Sister Act," "The Trip to Bountiful," "Motown the Musical" and "The Addams Family." And the first couple saw "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" during a date night in 2009. Michelle Obama and six girlfriends also saw "Fela!" in 2010.

This is the second Broadway revival of Hansberry's play. The original Broadway production in 1959 featured Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Claudia McNeil and Diana Sands, who reunited for a 1961 film adaptation. The last Broadway revival occurred in 2004, starring Sean Combs, Phylicia Rashad, Sanaa Lathan and Audra McDonald. It also was directed by Leon.

This time, tickets are a hot commodity. The theater has been sold out since the doors opened, and the well-received revival has pushed the average ticket price to $111 and the top premium to $348, second only to "The Book of Mormon's" top premium of $477 last week.

The cast can't think about that or who might be out there. "When we're on that stage, we have to be professionals," said Jenkins. "That's one of the hardest parts about having the job— you never know who's out there."

Outkast reunite, headline Coachella festival

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Outkast reunited onstage after a near decadelong hiatus with a jam-packed set at the Coachella music festival, their first of many performances planned this year.

The rap duo headlined the first night of the music festival Friday in Indio, Calif., performing well-known hits such as "Hey Ya!," "Ms. Jackson," "The Way You Move," "Elevators (Me & You)," and "So Fresh, So Clean."

The Grammy winners performed two dozen tracks—seen via its livestream on YouTube—as they celebrated 20 years in music since the release of their 1994 debut, "Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik."

"Hey Coachella, are y'all alive?" Andre 3000 asked the crowd at the top of their set. "Are y'all alive? Are y'all alive?"

"I really appreciate y'all coming out," he said at the end of the performance, more than 90 minutes later. "I know it's kind of weird 20 years later."

Outkast worked the stage as they performed their rap anthems, and at times, they performed around a small table with two chairs, an ode to their earlier years where they would write songs in Big Boi's aunt's kitchen in Atlanta and recite their lyrics in circles.

AP

Big Boi, left, and Andre 3000 of Outkast perform behind a screen during their headlining set on the first day of the 2014 Coachella Music and Arts Festival on Friday, April 11, 2014, in Indio, Calif.

"We just want to know one thing—are you having a good time?" Big Boi asked the crowd.

They crowd seemed energetic—especially across social media—but that was hard to hear at times through the livestream. Outkast also seemed to check-in with the audience throughout the set, asking, "Ya'll still with us" or "Y'all still here?"

The rappers kicked off the set with songs like "B.O.B," "ATLiens" and "Rosa Parks," and then they split up to perform solo music. Big Boi was joined by his mentee, singer Janelle Monae, when she danced during "Tightrope." He performed "Kryptonite (I'm On It)" and Shutterbugg," among other jams.

Andre 3000 was cool during performances of "Prototype" and "She Lives In My Lap," even though he said one of his icons was in attendance.

"I'ma tell y'all a secret. One of my idols is backstage. Prince is right there. No joke," he said.

Then he added: "Do we have any lovers in the house tonight? I know we got some haters. Y'all stand out real strong."

Outkast's performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival marks the duo's reunion since releasing their last album, 2006's "Idlewild." That came three years after the epic "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," which sold more than 10 million albums and is one of two hip-hop records to win the Grammy for album of the year.

The duo will also headline New York's Governors Ball festival in June and Lollapalooza in Chicago in August, among other festivals. They will play more than 40 shows.

Other performers Friday at Coachella, which plays over two weekends, included Broken Bells, Ellie Goulding, Zedd and Girl Talk. Muse and Arcade Fire will headline Saturday and Sunday.

Outkast's performance featured special appearances from frequent collaborator Sleepy Brown and rapper-singer-producer Future. After "Hey Ya!," they attempted to bring Killer Mike onstage for "The Whole World," but they had run out of time.

"That's it. They said we can't do no more," Andre 3000 said, as Big Boi added: "We'll see y'all next weekend."

Dreyfuss loves acting, but his real passion is politics

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Dreyfuss

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Politically, Richard Dreyfuss describes himself as "intensely pre-partisan, and even more intensely anti-shmuck."

The 66-year-old Oscar winner almost immediately injected politics into an hourlong conversation with actress Ileana Douglas about his life and career Friday as part of the TCM Classic Film Festival. Dreyfuss was even more outspoken in a later interview with The Associated Press, calling for a "civil strike" in support of the U.S. Constitution to encourage civic participation.

"I'm going to send you a copy of the preamble to the Constitution," he said. "If there's anything in it that you don't agree with, don't sign it; just send me back an explanation. You will agree with everything, because it's beautifully crafted and it's meant for all. And if I get 500,000 signatures, I'm going to call for a civil strike.

"What I would do is pick a weekday, and according to the time zone, 12:30 in the East, 9:30 in the West, you don't go, you don't do, you don't call, you don't buy. You don't do NOTHING for 30 minutes. That's not enough to hurt the economy, but it's enough to get their attention."

As you've probably guessed, Dreyfuss is even more passionate about politics than he is about acting these days. He still takes roles - including one in a current TV pilot he won't discuss - but he doesn't feel the same fire as before.

"I had this urgency to act," he said of his early career. "And then after 50 years, I realized that it had mellowed into a friendship and I didn't have to do it. ... I love acting. I love it. I just don't have to do it."

There's no part he's yearning to play, though he likes the idea of performing Shakespeare on radio.

What Dreyfuss does have to do, as a descendent of generations of activists, is express his frustration with the elected and the electorate and try to do something about it. ("From the outside," he said, "it looks like America is taking acid.") The actor took a hiatus from Hollywood to study at Oxford and establish his nonprofit Dreyfuss Initiative in 2003 to promote civics education in American schools.

"We're absolutely hypnotized into a state of denial or into the state of, `I have no power to do anything. I'm powerless.' And that, in fact, is incorrect," he said. "The power lies in the people. No kidding, it really does ...

"When people aren't taught they have sovereign power ... if they're not taught it, they don't got it. And they're not taught it."

During his earlier film festival appearance at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Dreyfuss cited the first U.S. president: "Washington said that the Constitution should always be central and the parties should always be peripheral," Dreyfuss said, "and we have it turned around now."

He also shared memories of working with Steven Spielberg on "Jaws" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." He talked about working with Audrey Hepburn, doing the voiceover for "Stand By Me" and Neil Simon's "perfect script" for 1977's "The Goodbye Girl," for which Dreyfuss won the lead actor Oscar.

O'Brien promises nudity, fire at MTV Movie Awards

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien won't be too shy to strip down as host of the MTV Movie Awards.

"I've been preparing for this job for several years," joked the talk show host backstage Friday during a break from rehearsing for Sunday's fan-favorite ceremony. "I knew I'd be doing the 2014 MTV Movie Awards, so I've been doing a series of isometrics, underwater exercises, Pilates and Greco-Roman wrestling, which had no benefit to my body, but I strangely enjoyed it. My body is in incredible shape, and you might be seeing some of that on the show."

AP

In this Dec. 12, 2013, file photo, talk show host Conan O'Brien arrives for the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences awards in Moffett Field, Calif.

The host of TBS' "Conan" also isn't afraid of the show's competition from other networks that night, which includes the latest installment of HBO's "Game of Thrones" and the sixth season premiere of AMC's "Mad Men."

"`Game of Thrones' is a complete waste of everyone's time," said O'Brien. "The dragons attack everyone and eat their face on Sunday night. That's what happens, so don't even bother watching. `Mad Men'? Yawn. OK. Someone had too much to drink and slept with somebody. Whatevs, OK? MTV Movie Awards, that's the show to watch."

This year's ceremony will honor the winners in such silly categories as best kiss, best fight and best shirtless performance. The funnyman noted the over-the-top MTV ceremony won't be comparable to his tenure as host of the Emmys in 2002 and 2006. The biggest difference? Lots of special effects on the show's apocalypse-themed stage, which includes a giant 5,000-pound bucket of fake popcorn and a sign that lights on fire.

"It's the most flames I've ever been around in my life," said O'Brien. "I've been working in show business for a long time, and every single part of the set explodes into flames at one point during the show."

O'Brien: Colbert 'right person' to do 'Late Show'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Don't feel bad for Conan O'Brien. Again.

The 50-year-old talk show host said he was never a contender to take over CBS' the "Late Show" when David Letterman announced his retirement last week. The funnyman, who has hosted his talk show "Conan" on TBS since 2010, said he believes Stephen Colbert is the "right person" to take over the show from Letterman.

"I wasn't up for it," O'Brien said backstage Friday during a break from rehearsing for Sunday's MTV Movie Awards, which he's hosting for the first time. "I'm very happy where I am, but I love Stephen. I think Stephen is great. I'm a huge fan of his as a comic and as a human being. I think it's fantastic. I'm really glad that he got the job. I look forward to seeing his show."

O'Brien originally succeeded Letterman on NBC's "Late Night" in 1993 when Letterman moved to CBS to headline the "Late Show." O'Brien infamously replaced Jay Leno as host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" for a mere seven months beginning in 2009 before Leno was reinstated as host in 2010.

"I was very happy because I have such respect for Dave," O'Brien said. "I'm glad that it's the right person getting it."

O'Brien, who has appeared as a guest on Letterman's show, said he's excited to see the "Colbert Report" host tackle the "Late Show," but he definitely didn't apply for the gig.

"Whenever I would hear there was speculation (that I'd take over the 'Late Show'), I was like, 'No. What?' I'm happy," said O'Brien, whose TBS talk show has been renewed through November 2015. "I get to do what I want."

Jerry Lewis: Women are funny, but not when crude

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Lewis says women are funny, but not as crude standup comics.

The 88-year-old entertainer was criticized for expressing his distaste for female comedians a few years ago, but in clarifying his comments, he called Lucille Ball "brilliant" and said Carol Burnett is "the greatest female entrepreneur of comedy."

Ball "went to the lowest level of the barrel, and she was brilliant because of it," Lewis said Saturday after leaving his hand and footprints in cement outside Hollywood's Chinese Theatre.

"Seeing a woman project the kind of aggression that you have to project as a comic just rubs me wrong. And they're funny—I mean you got some very, very funny people that do beautiful work—but I have a problem with the lady up there that's going to give birth to a child—which is a miracle," Lewis said. "But when you have women like Carol Burnett, that's the greatest female entrepreneur of comedy. I just saw Carol at the Smith Center at home in Vegas, and I was stunned by how brilliant she is and how brilliantly she brings the audience right up to her."

Lewis was accompanied by his wife and daughter at the cement ceremony, during which he asked his daughter to take a bow.

"This is an incredible time for me," he said. "I have never, ever had an experience like this and had my daughter present. And this is the first time I've ever asked her to join me."

AP

Actor and comedian Jerry Lewis, center, his wife, SanDee Pitnick, right, and his daughter Danielle Lewis pose together as he is honored with a hand and footprint ceremony at TCL Chinese Theatre on Saturday, April 12, 2014 in Los Angeles.

Danielle Sara Lewis is Jerry Lewis' only daughter and the youngest of his seven children.

Director Quentin Tarantino introduced Lewis Saturday. Comedians Richard Belzer and Dane Cook were among the guests. Lewis planned to attend a 50th anniversary screening of his film "The Nutty Professor" later that evening as part of the TCM Classic Film Festival.

Mickey Rooney to be laid to rest in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mickey Rooney will be laid to rest alongside Hollywood royalty.

A judge signed off Friday on an agreement between Rooney's survivors to have the actor buried at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, the final resting place for such luminaries as Cecil B. DeMille, Jayne Mansfield and Douglas Fairbanks.

Rooney died Sunday at age 93.

He had purchased a burial plot in Ventura County, where he and his estranged wife, Jan, lived, but his estate's executor, attorney Michael Augustine, said Rooney really wanted to be buried in Hollywood or at a cemetery for veterans.

An agreement to put him at Hollywood Forever was reached Thursday between his stepson Mark Rooney and Jan Rooney.

The agreement bars another of Rooney's stepsons, Christopher Aber, from attending the funeral, which is to be a small family service.

Jan Rooney's lawyer, Yevgeny Belous, said the actor's widow is happy with the agreement.

"All she wanted was for the family to come together and honor Mickey's wishes," Belous said.

Rooney's will disinherited his eight surviving children and left a modest amount of money to Mark Rooney. The estate's value was estimated at $18,000 in an initial court filing earlier this week.

The actor had lost much of his fortune in recent years to what he described as elder abuse and financial mismanagement at the hands of Aber and his wife, who is also barred from the funeral.

Mickey Rooney filed a lawsuit against Aber and a settlement was reached, but details weren't disclosed. Augustine has said it is unlikely any money will be recovered.

Communication online lacks personal touch for some users

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently exchanged pleasantries via email and text messaging with a lady I met on a website. One day later, I received a message from her stating she'd prefer our method of communication be kept to email and texting because she wasn't much of a phone talker.

Over the past few months, I have been out a number of times with other women who also expressed their preference to keep communication limited to email and texting. Is this becoming common?

I may be old-fashioned because I feel interpersonal relationships—especially initially—should include the element of voice inflection. I think it's more effective than a guessing game that only a full page of text can provide. Am I wrong?

WANTS TO TALK IN RENO

DEAR WANTS TO TALK: I don't think you are wrong, and I happen to agree with you. I, too, usually learn more from a spoken conversation than from an email or text because I can distinguish whether the person is joking or being serious. But you and I are becoming the minority. Today many younger people feel more comfortable communicating online—at least initially.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently returned to the family business to become the general manager. He is in control of hiring new employees, and he recently told me they need to hire more people. I have mentioned several times my interest in working there as an administrative assistant. However, my husband either changes the subject or gets angry when I ask about it.

It hurts my feelings that I am the person raising his children, but am not good enough to work in the family business! I also know it's not because of lack of experience. This makes me question the strength and value of our marriage.

HURT FEELINGS IN OREGON

DEAR HURT FEELINGS: While I can see that you might be disappointed, what I regard as your problem may be the lack of honest communication between you and your husband. He may have reasons for preferring you not work in the family business that have nothing to do with the strength or value of your marriage. It might be that he is new in his position as general manager, that working in ANY family business can be stressful, that he'd prefer separation between his working life and his family life, or that other family members might object.

Let the subject rest for a while, and when you do raise it again, try to do it in a non-confrontational manner. If you do, he may be more open and less defensive with you about what his reasons are. And if you would prefer to work outside the home in addition to raising the children, consider submitting your resumes to other companies.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are approaching our 25th anniversary. We don't have a lot of money to spend on a large party (our sons are 14 and 17). Are there inexpensive solutions? I'd prefer not to have it at our house.

STUMPED IN GEORGIA

DEAR STUMPED: Because you don't want to entertain at your home, consider holding the celebration at a park, limiting the guest list and making it a potluck.

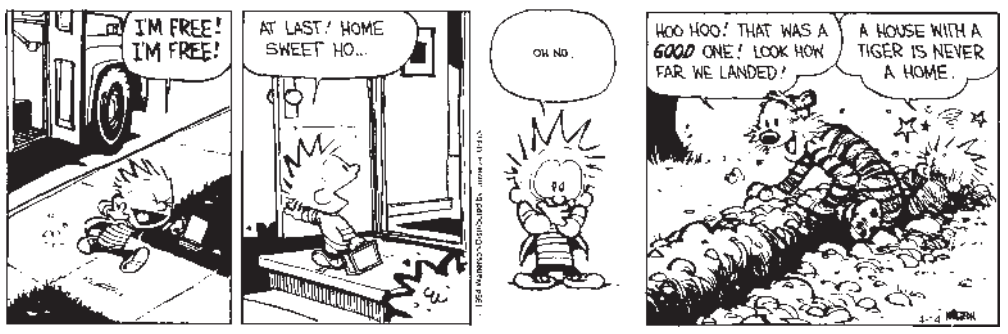
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

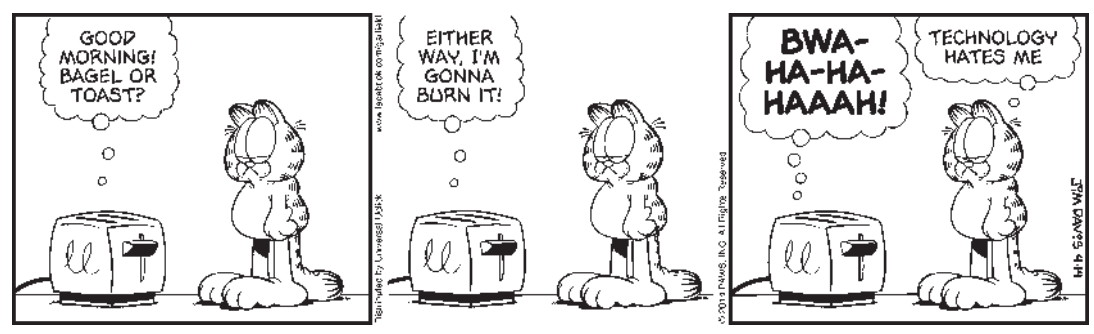
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M FREE! I'M FREE!
AT LAST! HOME SWEET HO...
OH NO.
HOO HOO! THAT WAS A GOOD ONE! LOOK HOW FAR WE LANDED!
A HOUSE WITH A TIGER IS NEVER A HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LAURA, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME. I CAN'T STOP SNACKING.
I'M OUT OF CONTROL. I'M LIKE A SNACKING ZOMBIE.
HMM.
SHOULD WE START WITH THAT SNICKERS IN YOUR POCKET.
WHAT? NO. THAT'S FOR SUSTENANCE. DOESN'T COUNT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE'VE REACHED A DECISION.
WE'RE VOTING THE CRABBY OLD LADY OFF THE JURY.
MR. CAMINO, YOU WEREN'T LISTENING DURING MY JURY INSTRUCTIONS, WERE YOU?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

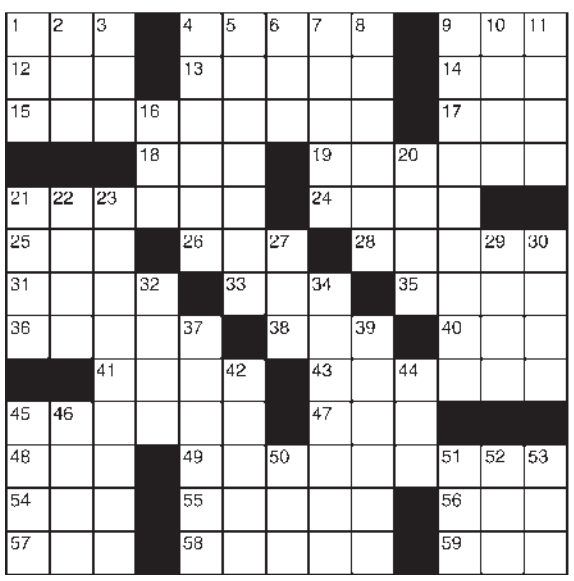
ACROSS
1 Fellow
4 Cone contents, maybe
9 Square of butter
12 Past
13 Berate
14 Greek vowel
15 Orbital points nearest the Sun
17 Sindbad's bird
18 Sock part
19 Scenario
21 Abductor
24 Anything but that
25 Chopper
26 Valentine misspelling
28 "Whee!"
31 Company
33 Snapshot, briefly
35 Old Italian money
36 Inventor Howe
38 — carte
40 Butterfly catcher
41 Pocket bread
43 Pedro's pals
45 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
47 Scoot
48 Lincoln, familiarly
49 Submarine device
54 Mongrel
55 Reserved
56 "Erie Canal" mule
57 Pigpen
58 Titles
59 Submachine gun

DOWN
1 Treasure seeker's aid
2 One's years
3 Neither mate
4 Education location
5 Elate
6 Lubricant
7 Praiseful poet
8 "Swell!"
9 Expiring
10 On
11 Diplomacy
16 Addams cousin
20 100 dinars
21 Eatery
22 Botanical angle
23 Border
27 By way of
29 Sandwich cookie
30 Feedbag fill
32 "You've got —"
34 Jodie's "Silence of the Lambs" role
37 Apply, as a brake
39 Entertains
42 Sports venue
44 Biz abbr.
45 PCs' alternatives
46 Touch
50 Edge
51 Buckeyes' sch.
52 Peace (Sp.)
53 Yale student

Solution time: 27 mins.

V	A	T	■	M	I	■	■	S	O	B	E	R
A	M	I	■	A	C	E	■	K	N	A	V	E
D	U	D	■	M	E	N	T	I	O	N	E	D
U	S	E	■	A	B	O	U	T	■	■	■	■
Z	E	D	S	■	O	R	R	■	S	H	I	P
■	■	■	P	A	X	■	F	O	M	E	N	T
A	L	I	E	N	■	■	D	E	S	K	S	■
L	A	M	E	N	T	■	G	E	L	■	■	■
E	G	A	D	■	A	B	E	■	L	A	J	Y
■	■	■	J	I	L	T	S	■	L	I	E	■
M	F	N	T	A	I	■	S	T	■	O	V	A
O	R	I	O	N	■	S	T	Y	■	H	E	R
D	A	N	T	E	■	S	O	X	■	A	S	S

Friday's answer 4-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abigail Breslin, 18; Sarah Michelle Gellar, 37; Adrien Brody, 41; Brad Garrett, 54

Happy Birthday: You will have to pick and choose wisely this year. There will be too many options and not enough time to take on everything and do it well. It's OK to be selfish and to put your needs first for a change. Don't let guilt stand between you and the success you deserve. It's time to take what's yours. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 28, 32, 35, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may have to stretch your time in order to take care of business and not neglect important relationships. Spreading yourself successfully between personal and professional demands will encourage confidence as well as emotional and monetary gains. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Secrets must be kept if you want to avoid backlash. A lack of trust will ensue if you are suggestive or misleading. Stick to the facts and do the best job possible. Call in a favor and do extra research. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get physical and see how much you accomplish. Take the initiative to make things happen and offer help unconditionally. Concentrate on what you can do, not on the obstacles that stand in your way. Love without motive or possessiveness. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can expect to face opposition. Don't waste your time arguing or fighting a losing battle. Use your intuition to guide you in a direction that will bring you greater stability and encourage solid partnerships. Put love first. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Making a move or a change to the way you live will have its benefits. Opportunities will arise, but so will obstacles. Stick close to home or to those you love, trust and want to do business with. Follow your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your desire to help others is admirable, but make sure that your recipients are worthy of your hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Partnerships appear to be abundant but questionable. Do your research and check for hidden motives. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Discipline will be required. A tendency to overdo it mentally, physically, emotionally and financially will lead to setbacks. Change can and should be initiated that will separate you from any poor influences you have. A force play will develop if you procrastinate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A tug-of-war will take place if you go up against authority figures or oppose someone in charge. Let body language and intuition guide you to make the right choice. Avoid trouble and you will be able to explore interesting possibilities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Use your head, your knowledge and know-how to reap the benefits you deserve. An emotional situation will be based on false information. Don't get trapped in a melodrama that leads to regret. Put self-improvement ahead of trying to improve others. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen attentively, but don't take action. Hold your thoughts and refrain from trying to control an unpredictable situation. Let things unfold naturally and when the dust settles, you can make your move. Use past experience to guide you. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look into investments and set up meetings that can lead to a higher income or better money management. A settlement or package deal may be tempting, but should be considered carefully. You are in the driver's seat, so take your time. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be open and receptive to new people, places and opportunities. Don't let anyone sway you or push you in a direction that isn't in your best interest. Be smart and work to get the best deal and ensure your future success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing and competitive. You are free-spirited and a leader.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		6	3					4
		4		2	7			
3	2		8					
1		5		9	6		8	
	3						9	
	9		4	3		5		6
					8		2	3
			6	1		8		
8					3	7		9

Difficulty Level ★ 4/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	9	5	3	2	7	4	8
5	2	4	8	6	7	3	9	1
7	8	3	1	4	9	6	5	2
2	3	1	4	7	8	9	6	5
9	7	6	3	5	1	8	2	4
8	4	5	9	2	6	1	7	3
4	6	8	7	1	5	2	3	9
1	5	7	2	9	3	4	8	6
3	9	2	6	8	4	5	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OIL OF OREGANO **Solution: 7 letters**

S	N	E	S	B	S	L	A	I	T	N	E	S	S	E
D	E	T	D	L	E	V	I	R	I	R	D	H	R	N
E	E	S	L	E	V	U	S	K	U	I	G	A	F	I
T	R	A	O	N	A	T	S	C	C	U	G	M	L	C
C	G	(T)	C	D	E	S	O	A	O	L	T	A	A	I
A	N	(N)	U	A	L	I	C	C	U	N	S	R	V	D
R	S	(I)	M	S	L	I	U	V	A	T	V	O	O	E
T	I	(M)	U	S	L	L	M	D	H	A	N	J	N	M
X	T	N	P	O	T	U	I	M	C	E	P	R	O	O
E	I	O	N	I	N	X	A	R	D	L	T	A	I	U
S	R	E	V	A	O	S	O	R	A	E	H	M	D	T
D	H	A	G	I	P	L	A	N	T	S	R	D	S	H
P	T	I	T	I	I	G	T	H	Y	M	O	L	A	E
E	R	N	C	O	S	E	A	S	O	N	A	I	F	A
O	A	E	S	S	D	E	F	F	E	C	T	W	E	L

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Annual, Antioxidant, Arthritis, Asthma, Blend, Carvacrol, Colds, Cough, Cultivate, Cure, Doses, Drops, Effect, Essential, Extracted, Flavonoids, Garden, Green, Heal, Leaves, Medicine, Mint, Mouth, Oils, Origanum Vulgare, Phenolic Acids, Planted, Plants, Safe, Season, Sinus, Skin, Soil, Spice, Steam, Taste, Throat, Thymol, Wild Marjoram

Last Friday's Answer: Long

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit wonderword.universaluclick.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

We buy used cars! Accepting all make and models from 97' & up. Call 287-8688 DPA CAR MART.

S.Y.N. LLC dba Jiang Li Xiang
is now hiring

(1) **Assistant Manager**
Atleast 2 to 4 years of work experience in hospitality industry.
(1) **Waitress**
All applicants must be fluent in Japanese and Chinese language.
Call 285-9885 and ask for Jerry

Global Investment Group, LLC dba New Tokyo Sakura Club
is now hiring

(1) **Assistant Manager**
Atleast 2 to 4 years of work experience in hospitality industry.
(1) **Waitress**
All applicants must be fluent in Japanese and Chinese language.
Call 287-8098 and ask for Jerry

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

L & F, Incorporated
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) **Accountant -** $5.75/hr
Bachelor's degree in Accounting
Knowledge in Peach Tree software
5 years of experience required

(2) **Maintenance Repairer -** $5.55/hr
5 years experience in Rod/Reel and Gun repairs

(1) **Administrative Assistant -** $5.55/hr
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration w/ experience in bookkeeping
5 yrs. experience required

Applicants must be able to work flexible hours and must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Please email resume to info@fishingtacklesaipan.com no later than April 21, 2014

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Carpenter • (1) Painter
Salary: $5.55 per hour.
5 years experience.

Please submit resume to
Bespren Development Corporation
dba Five Star Builders Corporation
Tel. # 235-5362

Job Vacancy Announcement

(4) Cook – Minimum 3 years work related experience. Specialized in Russian Food. Flexible working hours. Rate $ 5.55/hr.

(4) Bartender / Waitstaff – Minimum 3 years work related experience. Flexible working hours. Rate $ 5.55/hr.

(2) Cleaner/Janitor – Flexible working hours. Rate $ 5.55/hr.

All applicants must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service. Please mail resume with job references to PMB 173 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or email info@ecsaipan.com Emerald City, LLC dba East/West Restaurant/Siberia Restaurant/Jazz Café & Bar

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Saipan USA Fruits and Vegetable Stand/Hill is looking for
1- Farmer
1-Sales Representative
1- Caregiver
Must have related job experience.

If interested, please call Pedro Solis at 888-6572

Job Vacancy Announcement

(13) Beautician

(4) Massage Therapist

All applicants should have a minimum 3 years work related experience. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Rate $5.55/hr.

Please mail resume to PMB 373 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email newsic426@gmail.com. New Star International Corporation dba Asahi Beauty Salon and Asahi Massage Therapy.

G4S
Job Vacancy Announcement

Technician (1)
Technician Supervisor (1)
Administrative Assistant (1)

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
Police Clearance & Certification required with application
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: **Kinpachi Restaurant**

Job Vacancy Announcement

Assistant Restaurant Manager (1)
Responsible for managing the daily operations of the restaurant, includes assigning responsibilities to staff. In addition, must oversee the inventory and ordering of food and supplies, optimize profits and ensure that guests are satisfied with their dining experience. Oversee and manage all areas of the restaurant and make final decisions on matters of importance to guest service. Enforce sanitary practices for food handling, general cleanliness, and maintenance of kitchen and dining areas. Ensure compliance with operational standards, company policies, federal/state/local laws, and ordinances. Be able to present oral & written reports to the Manager. Have basic Japanese oral skills and extensive knowledge of Japanese food products.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Please no phone calls.

MISA ENTERPRISES,INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

General Maintenance (2):
Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience.
Applications can be picked-up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

No phone calls please.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

Job Vacancy Announcement

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care
- At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three years as a charge nurse in dialysis
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN)-Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- English Language Skills-Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Must be flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 04/25/2014 at 4:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2014

Opening date: March 31, 2014 **Closing date: April 25, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian)
(3) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Tariff Technician-I (Port of Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-004 **Position: Legislative Assistant**
PL-UNGRADED: $1,148.36 B/W **Opening Date: April 11, 2014**
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee **Closing Date: April 30, 2014**
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:
- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- **Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;**
- **Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;**
- **Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and**
- **Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.**

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT & ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Spieth, Watson tied for lead at the Masters

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

AP

Adam Scott, of Australia, shakes hands with Jordan Spieth, right, on the 18th hole following their third round of the Masters golf tournament Saturday, April 12, 2014, in Augusta, Ga.

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Even without golf's biggest star, this suddenly is shaping up as a Masters for the ages.

Jordan Spieth, playing a brand of big-time golf that belies his 20 years, kept his cool amid the chaos of Saturday at Augusta National. He was too busy trying to handle a lightning-fast golf course to even look at a leaderboard until he couldn't avoid them over the closing holes of a wild round.

His name at the top with Bubba Watson was compelling enough.

It's been 83 years since a player this young won a major, and 35 years since anyone won the Masters on his first try.

Two shots behind was 50-year-old Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain, rattling off seven birdies for a tournament-best 66 that gave him a shot at becoming the oldest winner in 154 years of championship golf. And still very much in the picture is Fred Couples, the 54-year-old who won his green jacket a year before Spieth was born.

The only mention of Tiger Woods, absent from Augusta National for the first time in 20 years, was whether Spieth could replace him as the youngest Masters champion.

"For a 20-year-old, he's pretty savvy. Not much bothers him," said Couples, who picked Spieth for the Presidents Cup. "Tomorrow obviously is going to be a really, really hard day to try to win this. But he's well qualified to do it."

Spieth managed one last par from the deep fairway bunker on the 18th hole for a 2-under 70. In his first Masters, he has broken par all three rounds.

That gave him a share of the lead with Watson, whose five bogeys in a round of 74 brought so many players back into the mix. Watson had a three-shot lead at the start of the third round. When he walked off the 18th green with a par, nine players were separated by three shots.

Spieth and Watson were at 5-under 211.

"Today was moving day," Spieth said. "And tomorrow is about seeing how I can control my game and emotions out on the golf course against guys that have even won here recently. So they have been in the position I haven't. Doesn't necessarily mean—I don't think—that they have an advantage in any way. I think that I'm very confident in the way things are going. And really looking forward to tomorrow."

Woods was 21 when he won his first Masters in 1997. Spieth would be the youngest major champion since Tom Creavy, who was a few months younger than Spieth when he won the 1931 PGA Championship.

But there's a lot of traffic on the road to a green jacket, mostly because of Watson.

He stretched his lead to five shots with a 7-iron to 6 feet for eagle on the second hold. He made only one birdie the rest of the way, a round sprinkled with putts that he either rammed too hard or left woefully short. Even so, the former Masters champion was right where he wanted to be.

"If somebody told me I would have shot 2 over and still be tied for the lead, I would have taken it in a heartbeat," Watson said. "So I got a shot on Sunday."

So do so many others.

Matt Kuchar, who squandered chances to win in each of the last two weeks, hit a pitch from well behind the 15th green that had to be perfect and was, setting up the best of his six birdies in a round of 68. Kuchar, a favorite in these parts from his days at Georgia Tech, was one shot behind along with Masters rookie Jonas Blixt, who fell out of the lead with a bogey on the 17th and shot 71.

Jimenez, who finished his round about the time the leaders teed off, was two shots back at 3-under 213 with Rickie Fowler (67). Lee Westwood, in that small class as the best players without a major, had a 70 and was at 214 with Jim Furyk (72) and Thomas Bjorn (73).

"Bubba at this point is keeping me in it," U.S. Open champion Justin Rose said after his 69, leaving him only four shots behind. "There's a lot of players with a chance tomorrow. Anybody under par going into tomorrow has a good shot."

That would not include defending champion Adam Scott, who might have thrown away his hopes with a 40 on the front nine that led to a 76. He was six shots behind.

Spieth fell in love with Augusta National the first time he saw it during a golfing trip last October. He has leaned on two-time champion and fellow Texas Longhorn Ben Crenshaw in practice rounds, and he met with six-time champion Jack Nicklaus on Wednesday to learn as much as he could.

The kid is a quick study.

He didn't even have a PGA Tour card at this time last year. Since then, he won the John Deere Classic, became the youngest American to play in the Presidents Cup when Fred Couples made him a captain's pick, and had a chance in the final hour to win the FedEx Cup and its $10 million prize.

Phil Mickelson might have seen this coming. He was paired with Spieth the last day of the Deutsche Bank Championship in September, when the kid shot 62. Mickelson called Couples and said, "Dude, you've got to pick this guy."

Now, the young Texan has a good shot to join them in the champions' locker room.

Clippers beat Kings 117-101 for 56th win

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin scored 27 points, DeAndre Jordan added 21, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Sacramento Kings 117-101 on Saturday to earn their franchise record-tying 56th victory of the regular season.

Chris Paul added 17 points and 10 assists, J.J. Redick had 13 points, and Matt Barnes scored 12 in helping the playoff-bound Clippers improve to 33-7 at Staples Center, breaking the franchise mark for home victories in a season. Griffin had nine assists, and Jordan had nine rebounds.

Los Angeles completed a season sweep of the Kings and has won seven straight against them at home.

DeMarcus Cousins had his seventh straight double-double with 32 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Kings, who lost their fifth in a row in their last road game of the season.

Hawks 98, Heat 85

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored 25 points, Lou Williams had 18 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and the Atlanta Hawks earned the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot.

Atlanta's third straight victory eliminated the New York Knicks from playoff contention. Williams scored the Hawks' last 12 points.

LeBron James finished with 27 points and Dwyane Wade, in his first game since missing nine straight with a sore left hamstring, scored 24 for the Miami Heat.

The two-time defending champion Heat, who have lost three of four, gave up the ground they gained in the standings Friday by beating Indiana at home and taking a one-half game lead over the Pacers. Miami and Indiana are now tied atop the Eastern Conference with 54-26 records. The Heat's 85 points were their third-fewest this season.

Wizards 104, Bucks 91

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 26 points, and the Washington Wizards moved a step closer to claiming the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference with a win over the Milwaukee Bucks, whose loss guaranteed they will finish with at least a tie for the worst record in the NBA.

John Wall added 15 points and eight assists for the Wizards, who also clinched the franchise's first winning record since 2008—which was also the last time they made the playoffs.

Washington leads the seventh-place Charlotte Bobcats, who beat the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday, by one game with two to play. The Bobcats hold the tiebreaker if Washington and Charlotte finish tied. Both teams are hoping to finish higher than seventh in order to avoid a first-round series against Miami or Indiana.

Khris Middleton and Ramon Sessions scored 20 points apiece to lead the Bucks.

Bobcats 111, 76ers 105

In Charlotte, N.C., Al Jefferson continued his dominating play with 29 points and 12 rebounds, and the Charlotte Bobcats defeated the Philadelphia 76ers for their sixth win in seven games.

It marked the sixth straight game Jefferson had at least 20 points and 10 rebounds in a game—extending his own franchise record.

The Bobcats (41-39) remained one game behind the Washington Wizards in the race for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference with two games left in the regular season. The Wizards defeated Milwaukee 104-91 on Saturday night.

Michael Carter-Williams had 23 points and eight assists to lead the 76ers, who have lost 16 of their last 17 games on the road.

Celtics 111, Cavaliers 99

In Cleveland, rookie Kelly Olynyk matched a career high with 25 points and the short-handed Boston Celtics defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Avery Bradley also scored 25 points for the Celtics, who built a 33-point lead early in the fourth quarter before Cleveland's reserves cut into the margin. Boston snapped a 13-game road losing streak and won for the first time away from home since Feb. 10. The Celtics have won consecutive games for the first time since early March.

Kyrie Irving scored and Dion Waiters each scored 15 points for Cleveland, but neither played in the fourth quarter that began with Boston leading 89-58.

Rockets 111, Pelicans 104

In Houston, James Harden had 33 points and 13 assists and the Houston Rockets rallied past the New Orleans Pelicans to maintain their spot in the Western Conference standings with the postseason just days away.

The Rockets had lost two in a row and needed the win to stay ahead of Portland in fourth place in the West.

Houston got a boost from the return of Dwight Howard and Patrick Beverley, who had both missed the last eight games with injuries. Beverley scored 20 points and Howard had 13.

Luke Babbitt, who was signed by the Pelicans in February after playing 18 games in Russia this season, had a career-high 24 points as New Orleans dropped its eighth straight.

Mavericks 101, Suns 98

In Dallas, Monta Ellis matched his season high with 37 points and Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 of his 23 during a second-half rally that carried the Dallas Mavericks back to the playoffs.

Ellis and Nowitzki brought the Mavericks back by hitting five 3-pointers between them in less than 4 minutes of the third quarter, erasing most of a 13-point deficit. Then, they teamed to get the lead back in the fourth, and Dallas held on in the final minutes.

The Mavericks left the Suns and Memphis to battle for the last playoff spot in the Western Conference. Dallas is back in the postseason after a 12-year playoff streak ended last season.

Eric Bledsoe scored 29 points for the Suns.

Nuggets 101, Jazz 94

In Denver, Kenneth Faried scored 24 points and pulled down 21 rebounds in the short-handed Denver Nuggets' come-from-behind win over the Utah Jazz.

Randy Foye added 26 points and Evan Fornier 23 for the Nuggets, who trailed most of the night before sending Utah to its fourth straight loss and evening the season series with their rivals at two games each.

Foye's 3-pointer with 6:54 left gave Denver its first lead of the night at 77-76.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 23 points, and Enes Kanter added 22 points and 14 rebounds.

McCann homers twice, Yankees power past Red Sox

NEW YORK (AP)—Brian McCann put an emphatic end to his season-opening slump, hitting his first two home runs for the New York Yankees to help beat John Lackey and the Boston Red Sox 7-4 Saturday.

Carlos Beltran, Alfonso Soriano and Kelly Johnson also connected as the Yankees scored all their runs on homers. Lackey (2-1) was tagged for a career-high four home runs in 5 2-3 innings.

New York has won two of three in a series that wraps up Sunday night.

A.J. Pierzynski hit his first home run for the Red Sox.

Hiroki Kuroda (2-1) pitched into the seventh, and reliever Matt Thornton gave up Mike Carp's two-run single that made it 6-4. With runners at the corners, Carp was caught stealing for the third out.

Shawn Kelley pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Indians 12, White Sox 6

In Chicago, Ryan Raburn hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with two outs in the seventh inning to lead Cleveland over Chicago.

Nick Swisher, Jason Kipnis and David Murphy homered for Cleveland, which snapped a three-game losing streak. Murphy added a bases-loaded triple in a four-run ninth against Donnie Veal.

The Indians improved to 18-4 against the White Sox since the beginning of last season, overcoming another shaky start by Justin Masterson. Josh Outman (2-0), Bryan Shaw and Cody Allen combined for 3 1-3 innings of one-hit relief before closer John Axford finished in a non-save situation.

Adam Eaton hit his first homer for the White Sox. Ronald Belisario (1-1) took the loss.

Twins 7, Royals 1

In Minneapolis, Joe Mauer hit his first home run of the season and Ricky Nolasco earned his initial win for Minnesota in a victory over Kansas City.

A day after getting his first RBI of the year, Mauer hit a three-run shot against James Shields. Brian Dozier connected for his fourth home run, a leadoff drive for the Twins.

Nolasco (1-1) showed why the Twins signed him to a $49 million, four-year contract to steady their rotation. In his first home start for Minnesota, the right-hander went eight innings and allowed five hits.

Shields (0-2) yielded seven runs—one earned—in 5 2-3 innings.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1, 12 innings

In Baltimore, Steve Lombardozzi tripled and scored on a single by David Lough in the 12th inning for Baltimore.

Toronto trailed 1-0 with two outs in the ninth when Colby Rasmus hit a solo homer off Tommy Hunter on a 1-2 pitch. After nearly going around on a check swing one pitch earlier, Rasmus drove a 98 mph fastball into the right-field seats.

In the 12th, Lombardozzi hit a one-out drive to center off Todd Redmond (0-1) before Lough sliced an opposite-field liner to left. As soon as Lombardozzi crossed the plate, the Orioles sprinted from the dugout to embrace Lough, who scored Baltimore's other run five innings earlier.

Zach Britton (2-0) got the win with two hitless innings of relief.

Athletics 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Sonny Gray overcame a shaky start to allow one run in seven innings and Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer as Oakland won for the fifth time in six games.

Gray (2-0) gave up his only run in the first when Seattle failed to capitalize when they had runners at first and third and no outs. Gray stymied the Mariners from there, allowing only singles to Logan Morrison in the fourth and Robinson Cano in the sixth, and a double by Dustin Ackley in the seventh. It was another dominant performance by the young right-hander who has given up only two earned runs in three starts this season, and earned his second win in a week against Seattle.

Donaldson's first inning blow was the only offense Oakland needed. He lined a 2-0 pitch from Seattle starter Erasmo Ramirez (1-2) over the hand-operated scoreboard for the early lead.

Astros 6, Rangers 5, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Jason Castro tripled with one out in the 10th and Jose Altuve had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly, helping the Astros beat the Rangers to end a 12-game skid against their state rival.

Marwin Gonzalez, running for Castro, scored Altuve's fly off Rangers closer Joakim Soria (1-1).

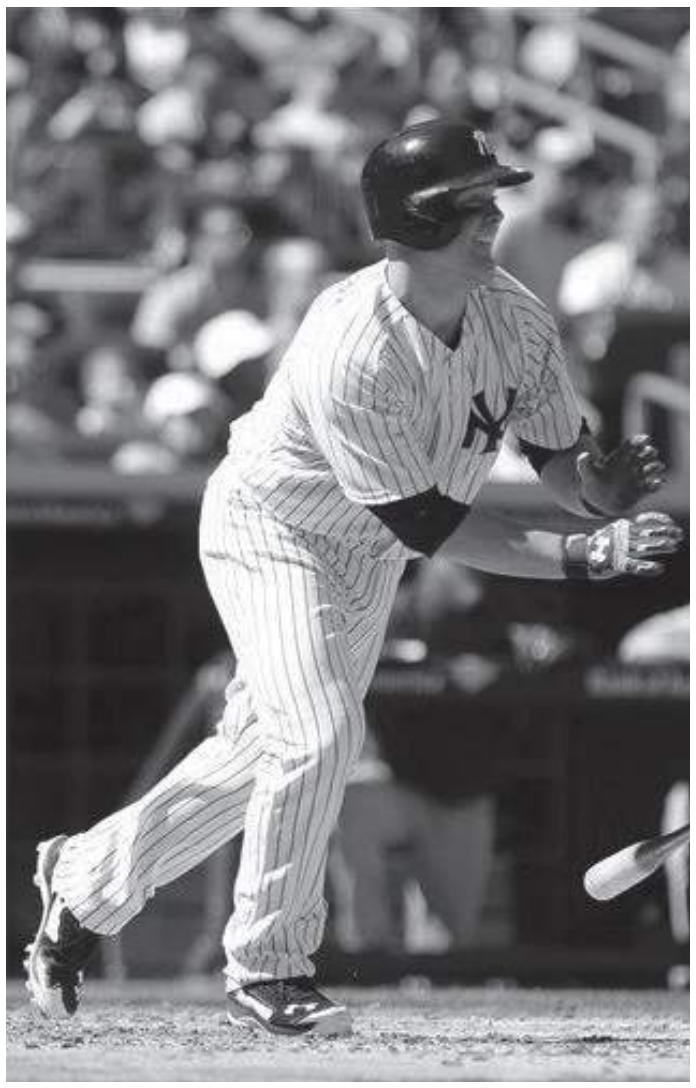
Michael Choice hit his first career homer in the ninth to tie it as Texas rallied in the eighth and the ninth to send the foes into extra innings for the second straight night.

Kevin Chapman (1-0) allowed Choice's homer but was awarded the victory. Anthony Bass pitched the 10th for his second save.

Shin-Soo Choo came into the game having reached base 12 of his previous 16 plate appearances but struck out all five times up.

Mets 7, Angels 6, 13 innings

In Anaheim, Calif., Anthony Recker led off the 13th inning with a home run against rookie Matt Shoemaker and also had a two-run single, leading the Mets to a victory over the Angels.



AP

New York Yankees' Brian McCann follows through with a two-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox Saturday, April 12, 2014, in New York.

Mets new closer Jose Valverde came on in the ninth to protect a 6-3 lead for Jonathon Niese, but allowed a three-run homer to 41-year-old Raul Ibanez.

Shoemaker (0-1), the eighth Angels pitcher, escaped his own bases-loaded jam in the 12th by striking out Juan Lagares. But Recker drove the right-hander's second pitch of the 13th into the left field bullpen for his first homer of the season.

John Lannan (1-0) pitched two perfect innings for the victory.

Cardinals 10, Cubs 4

In St. Louis, Matt Adams homered, Matt Carpenter drove in two runs and Adam Wainwright saved a tired bullpen by lasting seven innings for the St. Louis Cardinals in their win over the Chicago Cubs.

It was hardly a vintage performance by Wainwright (2-1), who struck out eight and helped his own cause with an RBI single. He gave up Junior Lake's homer on his first pitch and allowed six more hits after that. The four runs were twice as many as Wainwright yielded in his first two starts.

St. Louis did most of its damage off starter Carlos Villanueva (1-3), who allowed nine runs and 10 hits in three innings.

Brewers 3, Pirates 2

In Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez hit a leadoff homer, Jonathan Lucroy drove in the tiebreaking run with an eighth-inning single and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh for its eighth consecutive victory.

Gomez got the Brewers (9-2) started with a 432-foot drive to center field off Edinson Volquez, and Khris Davis scored on a wild pitch to make it 2-0 in the second.

Pittsburgh tied it in the third on Starling Marte's groundout and Travis Snider's single, snapping Yovani Gallardo's scoreless streak to start the season at 14 2-3 innings.

Lucroy singled to right off reliever Mark Melancon (0-1) to drive in Ryan Braun, who slid in ahead of the throw to the plate. Jim Henderson (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning and Francisco Rodriguez got his fourth save in four attempts.

Braves 6, Nationals 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman had three hits, including a homer, and Atlanta beat Washington to continue its early success against the Nationals.

Washington third baseman Ryan Zimmerman is expected to miss four to six weeks after breaking his right thumb when he was picked off second base in the fifth inning. Before the game, the Nationals placed outfielder Denard Span on the seven-day disabled list with a concussion.

B.J. Upton had two hits, including his first homer, and Dan Uggla drove in two runs with two hits for the Braves. Justin Upton had three hits, including two doubles. Evan Gattis also had three hits.

After winning two of three at Washington in the opening week, the Braves have won the first two games of a home series against their NL East rivals.

Alex Wood (2-1) allowed one run and six hits in five innings. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Washington starter Taylor Jordan (0-1) allowed five runs and 10 hits in five innings. Anthony Rendon homered leading off the game.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer and Zack Greinke improved to 3-0 as Los Angeles defeated Arizona.

Gonzalez, who had a two-run homer and five RBIs in the series opener Friday, followed that up with a shot to the left-field seats off Wade Miley (2-2) in the third inning.

Greinke (3-0) gave up a run on eight hits in 5 1-3 innings, striking out eight with no walks.

A.J. Pollock had a pinch-hit homer for the Diamondbacks, who scored three in the ninth off Brandon League, two on Mark Trumbo's two-out double. Kenley Jansen came in to earn his third save.

Juan Uribe doubled twice and had a two-run single for Los Angeles.

Phillies 5, Marlins 4, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins homered with two outs in the 10th inning and Philadelphia overcame two home runs by Giancarlo Stanton to beat Miami.

Rollins drove a 2-2 pitch from Dan Jennings (0-1) into the seats in left. It was the 201st career homer for Rollins, and the second game-ender of his career. The first came June 23, 2010, against Cleveland.

B.J. Rosenberg (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

Rollins finished with three hits and Chase Utley had two doubles and an RBI for Philadelphia, which has won 12 of 15 against the Marlins. Utley is batting .500 with five doubles and eight RBIs.

Stanton finished with three hits and three RBIs. His first homer, measured at 470 feet, cleared the seats in left-center and landed on Ashburn Alley—a popular outfield concessions spot.

Rockies 1, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Tommy Kahnle and four relievers combined for two-hit ball over six innings after Brett Anderson was injured, leading Colorado past Matt Cain and San Francisco.

Troy Tulowitzki had a sacrifice fly in the third, and Kahnle (2-0) allowed one baserunner in two innings. Matt Belisle, Adam Ottavino, Rex Brothers and LaTroy Hawkins pitched an inning apiece to complete the three-hitter, with Hawkins earning his second save.

Rockies relievers extended their scoreless streak to 9 2-3 innings in the series.

Anderson left with a bruised left index finger after allowing a hit in three innings. It was the Rockies' third win in their last 17 games at San Francisco's waterfront ballpark.

Cain (0-2) allowed four hits over seven innings with eight strikeouts and three walks. He is winless in his last seven starts at home.

Rays 1, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Alex Cobb went seven innings to extend Tampa Bay's run of solid starting pitching, and James Loney homered against slumping Cincinnati.

The Rays came into the interleague series with a 1-8 mark against Cincinnati. They've taken the first two games with shutdown pitching and just enough offense.

Cobb (1-1) pitched seven shutout innings against Texas on Sunday but got a no-decision. He kept the scoreless streak going Saturday, limiting Cincinnati's struggling lineup to four hits without walking a batter.

Grant Balfour got three outs for his fourth save, finishing the four-hitter.

Loney led off the second inning with his first homer against Alfredo Simon (1-1), who matched his career high with eight innings and allowed only five hits.

Cincinnati stranded a pair at third base and had runners thrown out at third and home. The Reds have lost all four of their series this season, falling to 3-8 for the first time since 1995, when they won the NL Central.

Tigers 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Justin Verlander had the first two hits of his career and pitched seven strong innings to lead Detroit over San Diego.

Verlander, who came in 0 for 26 with 15 strikeouts, singled up the middle off Ian Kennedy (1-2) in the second inning and had a base hit to right in the fourth, although he had to hustle to avoid being thrown out by Chris Denorfia. Verlander (1-1) scored on Torii Hunter's two-run single in the fourth.

Verlander allowed two runs and eight hits, struck out eight and walked one. Austin Jackson hit a two-run double and Rajai Davis scored three runs.

Prosecutor challenges Pistorius' story of killing

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—What exactly was Oscar Pistorius doing in the moments before he fatally shot his girlfriend in his home?

Was he, as the double-amputee Olympian testified Friday, hobbling fearfully on his stumps with his pistol down a passageway from his bedroom toward the bathroom after hearing a possible intruder there? Or, as the chief prosecutor contended, was he instead angrily pursuing his girlfriend in the midst of an argument?

Contradicting himself at times, Pistorius sparred with the prosecutor over the differing accounts of what happened on the night he killed Reeva Steenkamp by firing four times through the closed door of a toilet cubicle. The star athlete, who says the shooting was an accident because he mistook her for a robber, faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder.

"My whole being was fixated on this person that I thought was in the bathroom," Pistorius said during the third day of his cross-examination.

He said that as he moved toward the bathroom, he screamed to his girlfriend to get down from their bed and call the police. After hearing a noise that made him think someone was opening the toilet door to attack him, Pistorius said he opened fire. Only afterward, he testified, did he realize that Steenkamp was not in the bedroom but in the toilet cubicle.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel, however, said an argument between the couple was the "only reasonable explanation" for why Pistorius, 27, shot the 29-year-old model as she stood behind the toilet door some three meters (yards) away in the predawn hours of Valentine's Day last year.

Citing earlier expert testimony, Nel noted that the trajectory of the three bullets that hit the model in the hip, arm and head showed she was standing behind the door and facing it. Steenkamp wasn't scared of anyone "other than you," Nel said to the athlete.

Nel argued that the position of items in the bedroom also indicated Pistorius' story was a fabrication. A duvet on the floor in police photos shows the couple were awake and arguing just before the shooting and not in bed as Pistorius has claimed, he said. Pistorius said it was one of many items apparently moved by police after the shooting.

He relentlessly attacked Pistorius' account, asking the runner why he didn't determine where Steenkamp was and make sure she was OK before firing, and why he approached what he thought was a danger zone in the dark if he felt vulnerable on his stumps.

Nel noted that throughout Pistorius' version Steenkamp "never uttered a word."

WASLE

From Page 28

in the waters off Micro Beach against the 29:28 of Torres. In the lung-busting 90K bike race, Torres was faster by four seconds against Wasle with the former recording 2:40:16 versus the latter's 2:40:20.

"By the time I reached the transition 2 area, I looked at my watch and I knew I am still in a good position," said Torres, who managed to overtake the then second-running Mieko Carey a few meters after the turnaround at PIC.

"It was extremely hot, but I am used to this kind of condition in the Philippines. I tried pushing hard to catch up with Carina, but each time I moved closer, she was also getting closer to the finish line," said Torres, who entered the American Memorial Park compound just a few meters away from Wasle

Wasle was aware of Torres' presence and gave one final push en route to close the Saipan Sportsfest with back-to-back wins.

"I am very relieved to win Tagaman for the first time. Doing Half Ironman was tougher than XTERRA, but I am glad I tried it and won. The swim and bike leg were long and I just hang in there before pushing in the run leg," said Wasle, who had a split time of 1:40:24 in the run leg.

Torres also took it slow in the swim leg because she was unfamiliar with the condition and was later amazed with the shallow and very clear waters off PIC. She was also awed by the scenic bike course, especially down the Marpi area and then went all out in the run leg with her 1:36:07 for a total time of 4:45:51.

Torres was ahead by more than eight minutes against Carey, who started to cramp past the halfway mark of the run leg.

"I just did not want to push myself harder when I felt that pain in my legs. The season is still long," said Carey, who was first out of the water with her 23:27 and was still a few seconds ahead of Wasle and Torres when she made it to the bike-run transition area after submitting 2:41:26 in the bike leg.

Wasle then caught up with the Guam pro before they headed out of AMP and the latter went on to settle for third place after clocking in at 1:49:07 in the run leg.

Completing the Top 5 in the women's field were Korea National Team member Yunjung Jang (5:34:21) and Saipan's Kimiko McKagan (6:03:39). The Korean bet was first out of the water in the women's field after timing in at 21:22, but had a bad crash at Banzai Cliff. She sustain bad cuts on her left arm, but gallantly finished the bike leg and the entire race with split times of 3:17:04 and 1:55:55

Korean tops men's field

Jang's teammate on the Korean National Team, Ju Seoj Kim, had a smooth sailing in the weekend race to rule the men's field.

The 25-year-old Kim completed the race in 4:15:59, more than eight minutes ahead of Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskih (4:24:16). Kim, who is preparing for the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Korea this September, was first out of the water and the lone participant to complete the two-lap race under 20 minutes (19:47). He then had split times of 2:24:07 and 1:32:05 in the bike and run legs, respectively.

"I had a good race. I love the water and the bike course. The toughest was the run leg because I am not used to running in a very hot condition," said Kim, who was in a close fight against Dorovskikh after the bike leg, but pulled away in the last part of the race.

Dorovskikh, who beat Kim in the bike with his 2:15:54, was more than eight minutes behind the latter in the run race after submitting 1:40:47. Joining the two in the Top 6 were Guam's Cameron O'Neal (5:04:06) and David Torre (5:10:03) and Saipan's Tyce Mister (5:13:15) and Butch Sublemente (5:27:24).

PACQUIAO

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118-110. The Associated Press scored it 116-112 for Pacquiao.

After the fight, Bradley said he injured his right calf early on. But he also applauded the decision when it was announced, and he congratulated Pacquiao in the ring.

"I tried, I really tried," Bradley said. "I wanted that knockout. Manny is a great fighter, one of the best in the world. I lost to one of the greatest fighters in boxing. I kept trying to throw something over the top. That's what we worked on in camp. That was the plan, but Pacquiao has great footwork."

Pacquiao landed 35 percent of his 563 punches, while Bradley connected with just 22 percent of his 627 blow. Pacquiao's jab was much more effective, landing 23 percent to Bradley's measly 11 percent, and the Pacman had a slight edge in landing 148 power punches to Bradley's 109.

Pacquiao's performance righted one of the biggest perceived wrongs in recent boxing history. Pacquiao was an eight-division world champion on 15-fight winning streak when Bradley was awarded a split decision in their last bout.

Pacquiao was more aggressive and accurate from the opening minutes of the rematch, sticking to trainer Freddie Roach's pleas to take the action to Bradley. They exchanged big shots in the opening rounds, but Pacquiao appeared to wear out Bradley with the heavy early pace—and the Pacman never slowed down.

"I didn't want to get careless," Pacquiao said. "I picked up more steam in the second half when I made adjustments that Freddie gave me in the corner. Bradley was much better than in the first fight we had. He hurt me on the chin."

Although Pacquiao couldn't knock down Bradley, he answered the questions raised by Bradley about his killer instinct with a consistent attack all night. Bradley couldn't match that consistent aggression with counterpunching, apparently trying and failing to catch Pacquiao out of position.

"It looked to me like Bradley was just going for a one-punch home run," Roach said.

The arena was crackling with energy when both fighters made their ring walks, with Pacquiao in the unusual position of going first as the challenger.

Pacquiao landed a series of big left hands in the early rounds, knocking back Bradley with gusto. Bradley responded impressively in the fourth round, wobbling Pacquiao twice with a right hand.

The pace slowed in the fifth, with Bradley showing off his defense and movement while Pacquiao attempted to trap him against the ropes.

Pacquiao appeared to stagger Bradley late in the seventh round with a vicious combination, but Bradley stood with his back against the ropes and defiantly encouraged it, blocking most of the shots. Bradley appeared to pretend to have wobbly legs at one point after a Pacquiao miss, but his open mouth betrayed his weariness while Pacquiao steadily racked up rounds midway through the fight.

Bradley came on strong in the 12th, and the fighters' heads collided late in the round. Pacquiao avoided any trouble until the final bell, when he did a short dance step to his corner.

While Bradley remains publicly confident he beat Pacquiao in their first bout despite fighting on two injured feet, that much-derided decision sent both fighters' careers on wild spirals.

The two judges who scored the bout 115-113 for Bradley are no longer in the boxing business, but their decision ended Pacquiao's 15-fight win streak and forced Bradley to defend himself against widespread criticism of the result.

Bradley endured death threats and depression before returning to the ring in unusually reckless style. He brawled with Ruslan Provodnikov in March 2013 in a sensational unanimous-decision victory that silenced critics of his style and heart. Bradley then outpointed veteran Mexican champion Juan Manuel Marquez last fall, polishing his skills and making himself attractive to Pacquiao for a rematch.

Pacquiao was knocked unconscious by Marquez in the sixth round of their fourth fight in late 2012, and he took nearly a year off before returning for a workmanlike victory over Brandon Rios last fall. Pacquiao's last two performances prompted Bradley to declare Pacquiao had lost his killer instinct, noting he was unable or unwilling to stop any of his opponents since late 2009.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	46	33	.582	–
x-Brooklyn	43	36	.544	3
New York	34	45	.430	12
Boston	25	55	.313	21½
Philadelphia	17	63	.213	29½

Southeast Division

y-Miami	54	26	.675	–
x-Washington	42	38	.525	12
x-Charlotte	41	39	.513	13
x-Atlanta	37	43	.463	17
Orlando	23	56	.291	30½

Central Division

y-Indiana	54	26	.675	–
x-Chicago	47	32	.595	6½
Cleveland	32	49	.395	22½
Detroit	29	51	.363	25
Milwaukee	15	65	.188	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

z-San Antonio	62	18	.775	–
x-Houston	53	27	.663	9
x-Dallas	49	32	.605	13½
Memphis	47	32	.595	14½
New Orleans	32	48	.400	30

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	58	21	.734	–
x-Portland	52	28	.650	6½
Minnesota	40	39	.506	18
Denver	36	44	.450	22½
Utah	24	56	.300	34½

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	56	24	.700	–
x-Golden State	49	30	.620	6½
Phoenix	47	33	.588	9
Sacramento	27	53	.338	29
L.A. Lakers	25	54	.316	30½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	7	5	.583	–
New York	6	6	.500	1
Toronto	6	6	.500	1
Baltimore	5	6	.455	1½
Boston	5	7	.417	2

Central Division

Detroit	6	3	.667	–
Chicago	6	6	.500	1½
Cleveland	6	6	.500	1½
Minnesota	5	6	.455	2
Kansas City	4	6	.400	2½

West Division

Oakland	7	4	.636	–
Seattle	6	4	.600	½
Los Angeles	5	6	.455	2
Texas	5	6	.455	2
Houston	5	7	.417	2½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	7	4	.636	–
Washington	7	4	.636	–
New York	5	6	.455	2
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	2
Miami	5	7	.417	2½

Central Division

Milwaukee	9	2	.818	–
Pittsburgh	6	5	.545	3
St. Louis	6	5	.545	3
Chicago	4	7	.364	5
Cincinnati	3	8	.273	6

West Division

Los Angeles	8	4	.667	–
San Francisco	7	5	.583	1
Colorado	6	6	.500	2
San Diego	4	7	.364	3½
Arizona	4	10	.286	5

MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)–Scores Friday from the Masters, played at the 7.435-yard, par-72 Augusta National Golf Club.

THIRD ROUND

Jordan Spieth	71-70-70–211
Bubba Watson	69-68-74–211
Jonas Blixt	70-71-71–212
Matt Kuchar	73-71-68–212
Miguel Angel Jimenez	71-76-66–213
Rickie Fowler	71-75-67–213
Thomas Bjorn	73-68-73–214
Jim Furyk	74-68-72–214
Lee Westwood	73-71-70–214
Fred Couples	71-71-73–215
Justin Rose	76-70-69–215
John Senden	72-68-75–215
Kevin Stadler	70-73-72–215
Ian Poulter	76-70-70–216
Gary Woodland	70-77-69–216
Adam Scott	69-72-76–217
Kevin Streelman	72-71-74–217
Jason Day	75-73-70–218
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	75-69-74–218
Russell Henley	73-70-75–218
Chris Kirk	75-72-71–218
Steve Stricker	72-73-73–218
Jimmy Walker	70-72-76–218
Jamie Donaldson	73-70-76–219
Bernhard Langer	72-74-73–219
Rory McIlroy	71-77-71–219
Louis Oosthuizen	69-75-75–219
Henrik Stenson	73-72-74–219
Steven Bowditch	74-72-74–220
Martin Kaymer	75-72-73–220
Hunter Mahan	74-72-74–220
Bill Haas	68-78-74–220
Vijay Singh	75-71-74–220
Stewart Cink	73-72-76–221
Lucas Glover	75-69-77–221
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-74-73–221
Darren Clarke	74-74-73–221
Brendon de Jonge	74-72-76–222
Billy Horschel	75-72-75–222
Thongchai Jaidee	73-74-75–222
Thorbjorn Olesen	74-72-76–222
K.J. Choi	70-75-78–223
a-Oliver Goss	76-71-76–223
Francesco Molinari	71-76-76–223
Nick Watney	72-75-76–223
Sandy Lyle	76-72-76–224
Brandt Snedeker	70-74-80–224
Mike Weir	73-72-79–224
Stephen Gallacher	71-72-81–224
Joost Luiten	75-73-77–225
Larry Mize	74-72-79–225

a-amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Enforcers take first finals berth

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Falcons runner returns safely to first base, as the Enforcers first baseman has yet to catch the ball during their playoff game in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The JPO Enforcers secured the first finals seat in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball after nosing out the Falcons, 2-1, in a playoff game last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Center fielder Quinton Deleon Guerrero made the go-ahead hit at the bottom of the sixth, while first baseman Ton Muna and shortstop Virgil Secharmidal teamed up for a double play at the top of the seventh and last inning to move the Enforcers to the title match.

Deleon Guerrero was the Enforcers' fifth batter in the sixth inning with two outs and Jordan Kosam and Myles Santos on second and third base, respectively. He blasted a single with the ball dropping in between the first and second base, a few feet away from the Falcons outfielders, giving Santos a chance to run from third to home for the go-ahead run. Deleon Guerrero and Kosam were later left stranded, as sixth batter Virgil Secharmidal was booted out on a 1-3 putout play to end the bottom of the sixth inning.

At the top of the seventh, the Falcons were called for a quick first out with Ace Evangelista flying out at centerfield before Jay Kalen kept the team's hopes alive when he singled and advanced to third after third batter Kekuni Kainoa made it to first off an error from Nathan Nogis. Austin Deleon Guerrero was next at bat and hit his target, but the ball dropped straight into the hands of Muna, who then threw to second base with Secharmidal catching the pass and tagging out Kainoa for the double play and end of the match.

The Falcons, who will have to battle and win against the victory of the Comets-Fielders tiff for the last finals berth, absorbed the loss despite taking the lead in the first four innings, 1-0. Don Fejeran scored the first run in the playoff match, reaching home plate at the bottom of the first inning off a passed ball.

The Falcons kept the shaky lead until the bottom of the fourth inning with Kainoa allowing only one hit and walking three. The Falcons outfielders helped Kainoa shut down the Enforcers, as they caught eight fly balls.

Kainoa continued to pitch for the Falcons at the bottom of the fifth inning and was one out away from ending the period, but gave up a single to Kier Ada, who drove Secharmidal for the equalizer. Secharmidal also singled earlier and stole second and third. The match remained tied at the end of the fifth after the Enforcers were called for another fly out.

At the top of the sixth, the Enforcers had a 1-2-3 play. Agda, who relieved Secharmidal in the fourth, struck out leadoff batter Fejeran, while Secharmidal and Muna teamed in the two 6-3 putout plays. The Enforcers went on to break the tie at the bottom sixth and preserved the lead, as Muna and Secharmidal joined forces anew for the crucial defensive stops at the top of the last inning.

'Clinch' cedes title to challenger

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga relinquished his bantamweight crown to Spike 22 and Countershot Guam's Rick "2Slick" Camp last Friday night during the main event in Rites of Passage 16: Unleashed at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Camp dethroned Masga after winning via rear-naked choke just 48 seconds into the third of their five-round title fight. The challenger started the round with a surprise knee that hit Masga on the face and brought the deposed champion down the canvas. Camp then pursued Masga, who tried to stand up, but was held down anew by the former. The two fighters managed to reach one of the corners of the octagon cage and this was where Camp unleashed the killer move that left Masga unconscious for a while.

Referee Keith Nabors was on top of the play when Camp wrapped his arms around Masga's neck and gave the dethroned champion some time before pulling the plug on the Trench Tech bet. After Nabors finally called the fight, Masga was not moving and the third man on the ring grabbed the latter's right foot and lifted it up. Soon, Masga's corner men and ring physician entered the cage to check on Masga, who eventually regained consciousness and congratulated Camp for the win.

It was a sorry loss for Masga, as he was neck and neck with Camp in the first two rounds. Camp tried to force a stand-up fight after the opening bell, as he went for quick jabs on Masga. However, Masga used his trademark "clinch" moves to hold down Camp. An accidental low blow called on Masga broke the clinching fighters and when the bout resumed they grappled anew. In the second round, it was Camp's turn to commit an unintentional low blow, giving Masga time to recover. Masga then held Camp to the corner and again he tried to lock him down before the Guam fighter managed to get out of trouble and connect a few body shots in the closing seconds of the second round.

In the third round, Masga was caught flatfooted as a few seconds after he touched gloves with Camp, the latter went for a jumping knee strike to down the former. Masga absorbed his first loss in six fights.

Meanwhile, before the main event, three kickbowing match and nine MMA bouts were featured in the weekend event.

Guam's Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes of U.M.A Gym earned a unanimous decision win over Saipan and Down 2 Scrap's Jonathan "Britt" Camacho. Reyes connected on some kicks to Camacho's body in the first round before being called for a low blow late in the opener. Camacho was also called for the low blow in the second, but Reyes recovered and went for more strikes. The Guam fighter continued to be aggressive and got all three judges' nods, 30-27, 30-28, 30-27.

In the second K-1 match, Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas recorded a victory via TKO on Primo Po around the opening minute mark of the third and last round. The 6'2" Van Der Maas set up the TKO win when he unloaded a kick that hit Po on the jaw and the former kept going, hitting his foe with a string of strikes that signaled referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho to stop the fight.

For the last kickboxing bout, Guam Muay Thai's Albert "Butu" Andrea prevailed via split decision against Saipan's John Tudela. Andrea won the exchange in the first and went for a combination of kicks and knee shots on Tudela in the second round. Tudela then managed to score some points in the third round, but Andrea still had the numbers. Andrea won on the scorecards from the first and third judges, 30-27, 30-27, while the second judge had the same score for Tudela.

Results of the nine MMA

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam's Rick "2Slick" Camp holds Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga during their bantamweight title bout in Rites of Passage 16: Unleashed last Friday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Micro Games deadline by names May 7

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei have set the deadline for submission of entries by names on May 19.

With this development, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has set an earlier deadline with interested teams required to submit entries by names on May 7 to give NMASA enough time to prepare the documents needed for CNMI delegates. NMASA said delegates must pass a picture (passport size) and a copy of the information page of their passports.

At press time, only swimming, baseball, weightlifting, and spearfishing have made ticket reservations for the trip to Pohnpei, which will host the Micronesian Games from July 20 to 29. Lawn tennis and indoor volleyball begged off, while basketball and athletics (both men's and women's) have yet to decide whether to go or not to the quadrennial tournament.

Funding problems and availability of seats are the reasons for withdrawal and second thoughts of some federations. United Airlines is charging $678 per person plus taxes ($7.50 and $86.50, which are subject to change) for the Pohnpei trip and last March 14 was the deadline for making reservations. Tickets (online purchase) are still available after the deadline, but cost between $900 and $1,600.

Majority of the cost of the Micro Games participation maybe shouldered by the federations and their representatives, as NMASA has yet to secure financial assistance from the government. NMASA president Michael White, during the association's monthly meeting last week, said he is scheduled to meet with the governor to discuss the possibility of getting monetary aid for the CNMI Team's campaign in the Micronesian Games.

The CNMI finished second to Palau in the 2010 edition of the regional competition after collecting 44 gold medals, 23 silver, and 25 bronze. Athletics, tennis, and swimming contributed the bulk of the medals for the Commonwealth.

Spieth, Watson tied for lead at the Masters

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Sports

McCann homers twice, Yankees power past Red Sox

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Wasle wins Tagaman Triathlon

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Austria's Carina Wasle raises her arms in triumph after winning in last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Korea's Ju Seok Kim gets out of the water first during the swim leg of last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Austrian pro Carina Wasle had another first, winning her Half Ironman debut in last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Wasle, who bagged her first XTERRA Saipan crown two weeks ago, added the Tagaman feather to her cap, after emerging as the first female finisher in the brutal race with a time of 4:45:24. She survived a tough challenge from the Philippines' Monica Torres in the 21K run leg, cutting the tape just 25 seconds ahead of the latter.

"It was like a never-ending run. It was tougher than I thought and the heat was so bad," said Wasle, who had to look back several times to check on Torres.

Wasle had about a five-minute lead against Torres after the bike leg. She posted 24:40 in the 1.9-kilometer swim leg

See WASLE on Page 26

Pacquiao beats Bradley by decision in rematch

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Nearly two years later, Manny Pacquiao finally got the decision most people thought he deserved the first time against Timothy Bradley.

Pacquiao won a unanimous decision in his rematch with Bradley on Saturday night, avenging his 2012 loss and claiming the WBO welterweight title.

Pacquiao (56-5-2) pursued and peppered the previously unbeaten Bradley around the MGM Grand Garden ring with an aggressive effort occasionally recalling the Pacman in his prime. Bradley fought back with counterpunching and elusiveness, but Pacquiao kept up his attack while Bradley (31-1) struggled down the stretch.

In the same arena where the fighters met for their first bout, Pacquiao left little doubt about the result—although that's what he thought last time, too. Bradley's split-decision victory astonished most ringside observers, who felt Pacquiao had earned a clear decision.

"I knew I had to do more in this fight than I did in the last fight," Pacquiao said.

Judges Craig Metcalfe and Michael Pernick scored the rematch 116-112 for Pacquiao, while Glenn Trowbridge favored the Filipino congressman

See PACQUIAO on Page 26

AP
Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines celebrates his unanimous decision victory over Timothy Bradley just after their WBO World Welterweight championship boxing match, Saturday, April 12, 2014, at The MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.